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NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan

Spokesman: Bush Visit To Deepen Amicable Ties *[KYODO]* 1
Final Decision on Rice Imports Not 'Far Away' *[KYODO]* 1
Government 'May Suggest' EAEC, APEC Merger *[KYODO]* 1
EC's Andriessen Seeks Help on Finance Talks *[KYODO]* 2
  Discusses EC Trade Complaints *[KYODO]* 2
  Warns Against GATT Failure *[KYODO]* 2
Government To Join UN Drift-Net Fishing Ban *[KYODO]* 3
DSP Rejects Compromise on UN Peacekeeping Bill *[KYODO]* 3
  Balks at Mission Extension *[KYODO]* 4
Rengo Chairman Calls for Revision of UN Bill *[KYODO]* 4
Finance Ministry Calls For Spending Cuts *[KYODO]* 4
Finance Minister Denies Plan To Prop Up Market *[KYODO]* 5
Draft Bill on Financial Watchdog Body Approved *[KYODO]* 5
Democratic Socialists Review New Draft Platform *[KYODO]* 5
Crude Imports Post First Drop in Six Months *[KYODO]* 6
Council Proposes Increasing Graduate Students *[KYODO]* 6
Nuclear Accident Linked To Faulty Inspections *[KYODO]* 6
Nonpartisan Wins Nara Gubernatorial Election *[KYODO]* 7

North Korea

U.S.-ROK Security Consultative Meeting Viewed *[Pyongyang Radio]* 7
  ROK 'Servility' to U.S. Noted *[KCNA]* 9
Envoy to PRC Condemns U.S. Over Nuclear Issue *[Pyongyang Radio]* 9
Unity Group Questions No's Denuclearization Call *[Pyongyang Radio]* 10
Infiltration of South 'Combatant Ships' Blocked *[KCNA]* 13
O Chin-u Leaves for 'Rest' in PRC 25 Nov *[KCNA]* 13
  Arrives in Beijing *[Pyongyang Radio]* 13
Japanese Remarks on Normalization Talks Criticized *[KCNA]* 13
Joint Bank Venture Begins With Hong Kong Firm *[KCNA]* 14
Fourth North-South Contact Held at Panmunjom *[KCNA]* 14
Women's Delegation Arrives in Seoul for Seminar *[KCNA]* 14
  Issues Arrival Statement *[KCNA]* 14
  Head Delegate Speaks at Dinner *[KCNA]* 15
  South's Charges Refuted *[KCNA]* 15

South Korea

U.S. Protests Departure Ban on Citizen *[TONG-A ILBO 23 Nov]* 16
  Ministry Denies U.S. Pressure *[THE KOREA HERALD 24 Nov]* 17
U.S. Figures' Remarks Show Manipulative Mindset *[HANGYORE SINMUN 24 Nov]* 17
Samsung Signs Agreement To Produce F-16 Fighters *[YONHAP]* 17
Steel Exports to U.S. Hit by Antidumping Suits *[YONHAP]* 18
* Concern Over U.S., Japanese Security Roles *[CHOSON ILBO 9 Sep]* 18
Soviet Envoy Invites Foreign Minister To Visit *[YONHAP]* 19
USSR To Grant Preferential Customs Procedures *[YONHAP]* 19
Trade Ministry Cites Investments in China *[YONHAP]* 19
Agricultural Imports From China Up 72.6 Percent *[YONHAP]* 19
Chinese Firm Applies To Open Seoul Office *[YONHAP]* 19
$125 Million Loaned to Ten Developing Countries *[YONHAP]* 20
North Said To Have New Nuclear Research Reactor *[CHUNGANG ILBO 25 Nov]* 20
South, North Hold Contact; Differences Cited *[Seoul Radio]* 20
  South Side Makes Concession *[Seoul Radio]* 21

North Offer To Sign Accord Called 'Meaningless' *[YONHAP]* 21
Minister Says Inspections Limited to North, South *[YONHAP]* 21
North, South Women Meet at Seoul Seminar 22
  North Delegation Arrives *[YONHAP]* 22
  North Delegate Profiled *[THE KOREA TIMES 26 Nov]* 22
  North Accused of Politicking *[YONHAP]* 22
  Seminar Opens *[YONHAP]* 23
Government Approves Contact With North Teachers *[YONHAP]* 23
Trade Deficit Nears $12 Billion Mark *[YONHAP]* 23

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Burma

Commission Revokes Status of Three NLD Members *[Rangoon Radio]* 24
Ministry Issues List of 'Unscrupulous' Traders *[Rangoon Radio]* 24

Cambodia

French Foreign Minister Dumas Ends Visit 25
  Meets With Sihanouk *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 25
  Departs Phnom Penh 24 Nov *[SPK]* 25
Hor Namhong Congratulates USSR's Shevardnadze *[SPK]* 25
Japan's Obuchi Arrives in Phnom Penh 25 Nov *[KYODO]* 25
  Meets With Chea Sim 25 Nov *[SPK]* 26
  Meets With Sihanouk 26 Nov *[SPK]* 26
Hun Sen Urges More Thai Investment in Country *[Bangkok BANGKOK POST 22 Nov]* 26
Tie Banh Receives UNAMIC Representatives *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 27
UNHCR Official Cited on Repatriation Plan *[Radio VGNUFC]* 27
Australian UN Unit Leaves for Battambang *[Radio VOK]* 27
Sihanouk Visits Phnom Penh Children's Hospital *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 27
Sihanouk Denies Government-Rebel Alliance Role *[AFP]* 28
Ranariddh To Join Government as Deputy Premier *[KYODO]* 28
  Outlines Election Strategy *[Bangkok THE NATION 19 Nov]* 29
  Thanks Chea Sim for 'Support' *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 30
  Defends Alliance With Phnom Penh *[AFP]* 30
Son Sann Pleads for Sihanouk's Neutrality *[AFP]* 31
Activities of Son Sann, Ieng Mouli Reported *[Radio VOK]* 32
Technical Reasons Postpone Khieu Samphan Return *[Bangkok THE NATION 26 Nov]* 32
Students Stage Anti-Khmer Rouge Demonstration *[SPK]* 32
Son Sen Declares No Need To Speak About Past *[AFP]* 33
Central Bank Lowers Dollar-Riel Exchange Rate *[AFP]* 34
Rice Given to 776 Kompong Speu Needy Families *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 34
Establishment of SNC Headquarters Office Urged *[Radio VGNUFC]* 35
Commentary Hails CPP-FUNCINPEC Alliance *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 35

Indonesia

Minister Deplores Foreign Stands on East Timor *[ANTARA]* 36
Impact of Timor Incident on Suharto's Tour Viewed *[Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES 19 Nov]* 36
Students Demonstrate at Australian Embassy 25 Nov *[ANTARA]* 38
Timor Fighting Prompts Calls for 'Introspection' *[AFP]* 38

Laos

Leaders Greet Japanese Emperor's Birthday *[KPL]* 39
Article Praises Army's Role in National Defense *[Vientiane Radio]* 39
Consolidation of Nationalities' Solidarity Urged *[Vientiane Radio]* 40

Philippines

U.S. Formally Turns Over Clark Air Base *[Quezon City Radio]* 40
  De Villa, Abadia Comment on Turnover *[Manila Radio]* 41
President Aquino Replaces Customs Commissioner *[Quezon City Radio]* 41
Armory Raid Linked to Military Rebels *[Manila Radio]* 41
Abadia Says Raid Unconnected to New Coup Attempt *[Manila Radio]* 41
Military Launches Hunt for Armory Raiders *[Quezon City Radio]* 42
Reputed Communist Intelligence Chief Captured *[AFP]* 42

Offensive Against Communists in Quezon Ordered *[Quezon City Radio]* 42
Aquino 'May Support' Ramos in 1992 Election *[Manila Radio]* 43

Thailand

Chatchai's, Adviser's Assets Ordered Confiscated *[Bangkok TV]* 43
Asa on Foreign Reaction to Draft Constitution *[Bangkok Radio]* 43
Finance Minister on Foreign Economic Investment *[BANGKOK POST 24 Nov]* 44
Paper Rejects Constitution After Second Reading *[NAEO NA 23 Nov]* 45
Columnist Condemns Restrictions on TV Coverage *[THE NATION 22 Nov]* 45
Assembly Chairman Appeals for Compromise on Draft *[BANGKOK POST 26 Nov]* 46
Military Rejects Further Concessions on Draft *[THE NATION 26 Nov]* 47
Interior Minister Denies Leadership Aspirations *[BANGKOK POST 23 Nov]* 49
Minister Cautions Draft Constitution Protestors *[BANGKOK POST 22 Nov]* 49
Party Director Assails Air Commander's Comments *[THE NATION 22 Nov]* 50
Social Action Party Elects New Chief *[BANGKOK POST 24 Nov]* 51
Start of Thai Airways Flights to Cambodia Halted *[THE NATION 22 Nov]* 51
Cabinet Approves Appointment of New Envoys *[Radio VOFA]* 52

Vietnam

French Foreign Minister Dumas Continues Visit 52
    Received by Do Muoi *[Hanoi Radio]* 52
    Praises Ties at News Conference *[Hanoi International]* 52
    Winds Up Visit, Departs *[Hanoi Radio]* 53
Nguyen Huu Tho at Vietnamese Congress in Paris *[Hanoi Radio]* 53
French Firm Contracted for Infrastructure Upgrade *[Hanoi International]* 54
Talks With USSR on Social Science Cooperation *[Hanoi Radio]* 54
More Foreign Investment Project Licenses Issued *[Hanoi Radio]* 54
German Government Promises Resumption of Aid *[Hanoi International]* 54
Indonesian Bank Opens Joint-Branch in Hanoi *[VNA]* 54
Indonesian Company Signs Goods Exchange Contract *[VNA]* 54
ROK Firm Signs Joint Wood Processing Venture *[Hanoi Radio]* 55
Women's Union Delegation Visits PRC 12 Nov *[VNA]* 55
Meeting Marks Vietnamese Red Cross Anniversary *[VNA]* 55
    Vu Oanh Addresses Meeting *[Hanoi Radio]* 55
    Vo Chi Cong Sends Letter *[Hanoi Radio]* 56
Defense Ministry Awards Titles To Scientists *[Hanoi Radio]* 57
Dao Duy Tung Attends Vinh Phu Party Congress *[Hanoi Radio]* 57
Vu Oanh Directs Mass Mobilization Work Seminar *[Hanoi Radio]* 58
Party Subnationalities Department Established *[Hanoi Radio]* 58
National Labor Redistribution Efforts Detailed *[VNA]* 58
Directive Issued on Increasing Cotton Production *[Hanoi Radio]* 59
Radio Reports Nationwide Agricultural Production *[Hanoi Radio]* 59
Southern Provinces Import More Farm Machinery *[VNA]* 59

AUSTRALASIA

Australia

East Timor Killings Prompt 'Shift' in Policy *[Melbourne International]* 60
Defense Science Minister Defends Arms Exports *[Melbourne International]* 60

Japan

Spokesman: Bush Visit To Deepen Amicable Ties

OW2611003691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0023 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 26 KYODO—The Foreign Ministry announced Tuesday the provisional schedule of U.S. President George Bush's visit to Japan on January 7-10 as a state guest.

Ministry Spokesman Taizo Watanabe said in a statement Japan is looking forward to the visit as a means of deepening its already amicable ties with the U.S.

Reports are that Bush he will visit the ancient capital of Kyoto on January 7.

He will hold two sessions of official talks with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on the mornings of January 8 and 9, and will participate in a dinner hosted by Miyazawa on the 8th.

The U.S. leader will meet with Emperor Akihito after his arrival in Tokyo on January 8 and prior to his departure January 10. He will also attend a dinner January 9 in his honor hosted by the emperor.

Bush postponed his originally-scheduled visit to Japan, South Korea, Singapore, and Australia from late November to early December because of the need to remain in Washington to tackle urgent domestic issues.

Final Decision on Rice Imports Not 'Far Away'

OW2611030191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0245 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 26 KYODO—International Trade and Industry Minister Kozo Watanabe said Tuesday Japan will shortly decide to open its rice market to successfully conclude crucial global trade talks.

Watanabe told a regularly scheduled press conference after the day's cabinet meeting, "the timing for the final decision (on the rice issue) is not so far away."

Japan is facing increasing pressure to lift its ban on rice imports, as other major countries are moving to a compromise on the sticky issue of farm subsidies to salvage the Uruguay Round of trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Watanabe also indicated the possible opening of the market will be conducted in a manner consistent with the Diet's resolution on self-sufficiency in rice, Japan's staple food.

His remarks came as the top-ranking brass of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) suggested Japan is ready to make concessions on rice to avoid becoming the scapegoat if the round collapses in disarray.

Government 'May Suggest' EAEC, APEC Merger

OW2611091091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0848 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 26 KYODO—The government may suggest that a proposed Asian economic group be merged with the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, a Foreign Ministry spokesman indicated Tuesday, giving credence to news reports that a merger is being considered.

"There have been many ideas floating around within and outside the government," Taizo Watanabe told foreign correspondents.

Watanabe was commenting on reports in the NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN daily Monday that Japan will unofficially propose the merger to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and other concerned countries before the ASEAN summit meeting in January.

The newspaper, quoting government sources, said Japan will acknowledge the East Asian Economic Caucus (EAEC) as a nonpermanent forum of trade ministers which would be merged gradually with APEC.

It said Tokyo will come up with the proposal for fear that the EAEC would create an Asian economic bloc that would exclude the United States.

In his comments, Watanabe said the article was mistaken in that it indicated a decision had been made.

"It is true that many views have been exchanged but no firm decision has been taken," he said. "Therefore, in that sense, this article is misleading."

Watanabe said Japan would make its official position on the EAEC clear after the discussions at the ASEAN summit meeting.

"At the same time, we have made it publicly known that we are opposed to any regional grouping that is not open to outsiders," he said.

The United States opposes the group, fearing it would divide the Asia-Pacific region, and has been pressing Japan not to join it.

Another foreign ministry source said Japan "is now trying to find a new way for future cooperation under the forum of APEC...but our position is not definitive at this point."

He said, however, that based on the results of the recent APEC meeting in Seoul, Japan has concluded APEC is "one of the most appropriate forums for regional cooperation."

"The U.S. and ASEAN—both of them are our good friends and good partners, so that's why our stand (on the EAEC) is not so clear, that's why we're watching and waiting," the source said. "It's not easy for us to make up our minds right now."

He said that in January, Japan will have more information from both sides on which to base a decision, because of U.S. President George Bush's January 7-10 visit and the ASEAN summit meeting.

EC's Andriessen Seeks Help on Finance Talks

OW2611051891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0505 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 26 KYODO—Visiting European Community (EC) Commission Vice President Frans Andriessen called Tuesday for Japan's cooperation in bringing the multilateral trade talks on financial services to a successful end, a Finance Ministry official said.

Andriessen, in a meeting with Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata, said the talks being held as part of the Uruguay Round of trade-liberalization negotiations are important for the EC, and sought Tokyo's contribution, the official said.

Hata said Japan will make efforts to further open its financial markets, according to the official.

Andriessen also expressed hopes that the current program to promote direct foreign investments in Japan will be expanded, the official said.

Discusses EC Trade Complaints

OW2611092691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0900 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 26 KYODO—The European Community (EC) will present Japan with a list of its specific demands on bilateral trade and investment, Frans Andriessen, EC Commission vice president for external affairs, said in Tokyo Tuesday.

Andriessen told International Trade and Industry Minister Kozo Watanabe in a luncheon meeting that the list will form a basis for future negotiations on bilateral trade, which has shown a sizable imbalance in favor of Japan this year, a ministry official said.

The paper, expected to be compiled at the annual Japan-EC senior officials meeting next spring, will list Japan's telecommunications, satellite, auto parts, and other markets which the 12-nation trading bloc perceives are impenetrable, the official said.

In Monday talks with Watanabe, Andriessen voiced frustration over the EC's limited access to those markets, arguing that Japan erects barriers to EC's high-tech items, which enjoy a major market share outside Japan.

The proposal came as the EC grows impatient with its burgeoning trade deficit with Japan, which amounted to 23 billion dollars in the first 10 months of 1991.

Watanabe responded positively to the proposal, saying that Japan will prepare a similar document, the official said.

He said the Japanese list will include EC's discriminatory import curbs on about 50 Japanese products such as televisions, radio sets, and motorcycles and what Japan sees as arbitrary use of antidumping measures on Japanese imports.

Warns Against GATT Failure

OW2611114591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1112 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Osaka, Nov. 26 KYODO—European Community (EC) Vice President Frans Andriessen warned Tuesday that excessive attention to the agricultural sector to the exclusion of other issues could endanger successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks.

A final package requires a comprehensive and balanced final settlement for all 15 items taken up in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)-sponsored talks, Andriessen said in a speech delivered to the Fifth Annual EC-Japan Journalists' Conference.

"Any singling out of a particular subject—for instance agriculture—cannot but be detrimental for the search for a satisfactory final package," he said.

Nicolaas Wegter, spokesman for Andriessen, told reporters in Tokyo earlier in the day that an array of meetings with Japan's top leadership failed to yield any concrete suggestions by Tokyo on how it plans to help resolve issues such as financial services, lowering tariffs to improve market access, or streamlining settlements of disputes.

Andriessen warned in his speech that a failure to conclude the talks this year could jeopardize the success of the discussions and put into question the credibility of the GATT framework for world trade.

On EC-Japan relations, Andriessen said the focus of closer ties should be political, rather than economic.

"Serious trade problems remain which should not be underestimated but there is much more at stake when (EC-Japan) relations are debated," he said.

"The need to strengthen relations between both parties derives in the first place from political considerations," he said.

He went on to describe both Tokyo and Brussels as major economic players that lack political maturity but devoted the greater part of the keynote speech to economic issues.

Commending Japan's political and economic support to the Soviet Union and aid to Eastern Europe as a show of "how serious is Japan's commitment to play its role in international affairs," Andriessen sought further funds and business know-how for Eastern Europe.

Spokesman Wegter said the Japanese Government seemed willing to undertake "substantial initiatives" in

Eastern Europe but the territorial dispute with the Soviet Union poses an impediment to further assistance to that country.

Japan offered 2.5 billion dollars in emergency food and trade aid to the Soviet Union in October.

Tokyo is demanding that four islands occupied by the Soviet Union since the end of World War II be returned before relations can be fully normalized.

Andriessen is to make an informal address on the second day of the journalists' conference and hold a news conference Wednesday before winding up his visit.

His trip represents the first high-level meeting between Japan and the EC following a joint declaration issued in July that called for stepped up political ties.

Government To Join UN Drift-Net Fishing Ban

OW2611033391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0315 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 26 KYODO—Japan, yielding to international pressure, announced Tuesday it will join a United Nations moratorium on fishing with drift nets that are blamed for indiscriminate killing of marine life and depletion of ocean resources.

Fisheries Minister Masami Tanabu told a regular cabinet meeting the decision was made "taking into consideration the severe responses of other nations, and our position in the international community," according to Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato.

The move ends a dispute that threatened to sour relations between Tokyo and Washington.

The United States proposed a U.N. ban earlier this fall after failing to convince Japan to abandon fishing with the 50-kilometer nets. Washington said it planned to slap trade sanctions on nations that did not observe the U.N. resolution.

Kato told a news conference after the cabinet meeting Japan would comply with the U.N. ban by reducing by half its drift-net fishing capacity as of June 1992, and stop all such fishing by the end of the year.

Asked whether Japan regards the practice as environmentally hazardous, he said: "There are various arguments about conserving resources. Our country was in a very tough position."

Japanese officials have maintained there is no conclusive scientific evidence drift-net fishing is more wasteful than other types of fishing.

They also said the ban would affect the livelihoods of 10,000 fishermen and 50,000 people involved in the fish processing industry.

Some 600 Japanese drift-net fishing boats operate in international waters in the northern Pacific. Most are engaged in catching squid.

DSP Rejects Compromise on UN Peacekeeping Bill

OW2611043491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0428 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 26 KYODO—The Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) turned down Tuesday a compromise proposal by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) on the United Nations peacekeeping cooperation bill, DSP officials said.

The rejection came when negotiations between the LDP and opposition parties on the bill were entering the final stage.

The LDP proposal includes that a special Diet mission be sent to the scene of peacekeeping operations one month after a dispatch of the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) abroad with the idea of giving retroactive parliamentary approval, the officials said.

However, the leadership of the fourth-largest opposition party decided to turn down the LDP scheme following an executive meeting Tuesday that included DSP Chairman Keigo Ouchi and Secretary General Takashi Yonezawa, they said.

The party confirmed its position demanding a revised bill which includes Diet approval of sdf dispatch overseas.

The LDP's idea includes establishing a special Diet committee when the government is asked by the U.N. to dispatch forces, and sending a nonpartisan mission one month after the dispatch.

If the committee approves recommendations made by the mission, it will then forward them to the government.

But a DSP leader said under the proposal, the LDP could block the taking of a vote at special committee meetings. He added he cannot accept it as resolutions of the special committee would be nonbinding.

The LDP reportedly plans to take a vote Thursday on the controversial bill at a House of Representative's special committee that is debating the bill, ruling party sources said.

The LDP and second-biggest opposition party Komeito are pushing for early approval of the bill. The No. 1 opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP) and Japanese Communist Party, both of which oppose the bill as unconstitutional, are attempting to delay the Diet debate, according to opposition sources.

The DSP does not oppose the bill in principle, but strongly demands each dispatch of military personnel overseas be subject to prior Diet approval.

Komeito's leadership has indicated a flexible attitude to the LDP's retroactive approval plan, Komeito sources said. Until now, Komeito had said the sending of the SDF abroad should not need Diet approval, but has shifted its stance to gain DSP support for the bill, the sources said.

Some LDP members are proposing a meeting of party chiefs or secretaries general among the LDP, Komeito, and the DSP by Wednesday to hammer out a tripartite alliance in support of the bill.

Balks at Mission Extension

OW2611165491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1432 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 26 KYODO—A Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) refusal to accept a key element in a government-proposed bill for overseas dispatch of the Self Defense Forces (SDF) placed a last-minute obstacle in the way of the bill late Tuesday.

Earlier the same day, a concession agreed to informally by the government and LDP [Liberal Democratic Party] broke an apparent Diet stalemate on allowing Japanese troops to join U.N. peacekeeping forces.

Under the concession, each dispatch of forces would be subject to approval by a special committee, and the full Diet would have to approve the extension of a mission beyond six months.

But a final proposal drawn up and put to other parties by LDP Secretary General Tamisuke Watanuki called instead for a mission limit of three years.

The opposition Komeito accepted it, but the DSP, which is not against the bill in principle, balked at any extension beyond six months.

The Komeito originally proposed a two-year limit, leaving the LDP to discuss the matter with the DSP.

In negotiatons with the DSP, the LDP adopted as a compromise the Komeito's two-year proposal, but the DSP rejected it by insisting on a six-month period.

The DSP took the view that periods of more than six months would be overly long and that the nation would tend to forget it had dispatched an SDF mission.

The DSP has already shifted its position from one of insisting solely on the dispatch of civilians to allowing the dispatch of the SDF provided it has prior Diet approval.

But the LDP took a different view, saying that prior approval would hinder the flexibility of the SDF peacekeeping force.

The LDP at first said it would seek agreement with the Komeito alone on the issue, but later agreed to the DSP proposal for retroactive approval.

The new difference of opinion between the two parties means a further delay in the negotiation process.

Rengo Chairman Calls for Revision of UN Bill

OW2611060591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0548 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 26 KYODO—The leader of Japan's largest trade union Tuesday urged legislators to revise a government bill on United Nations peacekeeping cooperation to ensure civilian control of the military.

"To enhance the principle, there is a need for prior approval of the Diet" each time Self-Defense Forces (SDF) personnel are dispatched overseas to participate in U.N. peacekeeping operations, said Akira Yamagishi, chairman of the Japanese Trade Union Confederation (Rengo).

In his first reference to revising the bill, Yamagishi told reporters in the Diet building he will ask major opposition parties to agree on the policy.

Disagreement within the 8-million-strong union has prevented unanimity on the controversial bill, which has reached the final stages of discussions among the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and opposition parties in a House of Representatives special committee.

The LDP and the second-biggest opposition party, Komeito, are working for early approval of the bill, which would allow SDF forces to join peacekeeping missions without specific Diet approval.

The No. 1 opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP) and the Japanese Communist Party both oppose the bill as violating Japan's Constitution, which renounces war as a means of settling disputes.

The Democratic Socialist Party (DSP), the fourth-largest opposition party, does not oppose the bill in principle but demands each dispatch of military personnel overseas be subject to prior Diet approval.

The LDP plans to vote Wednesday on the controversial bill at the committee and at a plenary session of the lower house on Thursday.

Finance Ministry Calls For Spending Cuts

OW2511123191 Tokyo KYODO in English 1208 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 25 KYODO—The Ministry of Finance (MOF) on Monday called on other ministries to cut their expenditures to help balance the budget in the face of a huge shortfall in tax revenues expected for the year, a ministry official said.

At a meeting of top budget officials of government ministries, the director general of the MOF's Budget Bureau, Jiro Saito, requested they forgo about 70-80 billion yen in budget appropriations and suspend implementation of other outlays, the official said.

He explained at the meeting that tax revenues for fiscal 1991 are expected to fall short of the original estimate, on which the budget was based, by about 2.8 trillion yen.

Saito reportedly told the officials that current fiscal conditions are quite restrictive.

Saito and Vice Finance Minister Hiroshi Yasuda earlier visited Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa to brief him on the fiscal situation, and stressed the need to thoroughly review all outlays.

The top MOF officials reportedly advised Miyazawa that the supplementary budget now being considered should cover only essential additional spendings such as assistance to regions devastated by natural disasters.

Miyazawa agreed with the MOF's view on the budget, the official said.

Finance Minister Denies Plan To Prop Up Market

OW2611024791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0239 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 26 KYODO—Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata said Tuesday the government has no plan at the moment to prop up the faltering stock market.

The bearish outlook for corporate performance and the weak market on Wall Street are wielding a negative psychological effect on the Tokyo market, he told a press conference after a regular cabinet meeting.

"Since it is not a wild movement, we would just like to keep a close watch on the market without taking any immediate measure," he said.

The benchmark Nikkei stock average declined on Monday for the ninth consecutive trading day, marking the longest losing streak in 23 years.

Asked about the foreign exchange market, where the yen rose sharply against the U.S. Dollar overnight, hata said the yen is just following a natural line of market reasoning that reflects the economic fundamentals of the major countries.

He said the government is looking closely at the natural course of the market, and dismissed any speculation about market intervention.

Hata was also confident about the domestic economy in general.

The labor market remains tight, and there are still views that land prices are not yet on a firm downward path, he said.

The Bank of Japan recently lowered the official discount rate, and market rates had already fallen even before that, Hata said, adding the government will continue monitoring real interest rates.

Draft Bill on Financial Watchdog Body Approved

OW2611032791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0322 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 26 KYODO—The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) gave the green light Tuesday to legislation drafted by the Finance Ministry that would create a semi-independent committee to inspect and monitor financial markets, ministry officials said.

The draft bill would give the new watchdog committee the right to file charges with prosecutors against violators in order to prevent a repeat of the series of financial scandals that jolted the financial community this summer.

The ministry will seek budgetary appropriations to set up the committee in preparing the fiscal 1992 draft budget so the legislation can be approved at the next ordinary session of the Diet starting January, the officials said.

Under the legislation, the committee would have a staff of 80 persons in two sections, one to police stock market violations such as insider trading and the other to investigate violations of self-imposed industry rules.

Of the 80 officers, 55 would come from the inspection sections of the securities, banking, and international finance bureaus within the ministry and the remainder would be newly hired.

Simultaneously, the ministry will consolidate the inspection sections of the three ministry bureaus with the existing financial inspection section that primarily monitors and investigates unfair and illegal practices involving banks.

Democratic Socialists Review New Draft Platform

OW2311082991 Tokyo KYODO in English 0803 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 23 KYODO—The Democratic Socialist Party (DSP), the fourth-largest opposition party, announced Saturday a final draft of a new party platform pledging to play a leading role in creating a political system to bring about a government change.

The new platform will be submitted to the party's Central Committee session Wednesday and will be adopted at the party convention next April, party officials said.

The draft says that the centrist party will pursue democratic socialism and develop it.

In a draft platform submitted to the party convention in February, the term "democratic socialism" was dropped. Party members have criticized the February draft, saying it violated the spirit of the party founding.

The party set up a committee to study ways to review and revitalize the party platform, that was adopted in 1962, after the party's major setback in last year's general elections.

The five-chapter new draft platform stipulates that the party will conduct reforms on the basis of freedom, fairness, and fellowship.

The draft says the party will aim at achieving living standards commensurate with the country's economic power and making active contributions to world peace and prosperity.

Crude Imports Post First Drop in Six Months

OW2511083491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0813 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 25 KYODO—Japan purchased less foreign crude oil in October than a year earlier, the first import drop in six months, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) reported Monday.

October crude imports fell 5.4 percent to 133.4 million barrels in reaction to the unusual increases in oil purchases after the Persian Gulf crisis broke out in August last year.

A MITI official said the crisis led Japanese oil companies to increase crude purchases from Middle East countries other than Iraq and Kuwait, which resulted in a boost in imports.

Imports from the Middle East region dropped 1.3 percent from the previous year's levels as a result of these temporary purchase increases, with those from Iran plunging nearly 50 percent.

Kuwait, however, resumed oil exports to Japan after a 13-month break stemming from the serious damage the Gulf war caused to its oil facilities.

MITI's preliminary report also showed crude processing was down 0.1 percent to 114.3 million barrels for the second consecutive monthly decline.

Fuel output in October rose 4.4 percent to 107.3 million barrels, with that of light oil posting a record high, in a continuous trend since the Gulf crisis in which Japanese refiners boosted their output to reduce expensive oil product imports.

Fuel imports, accordingly, dropped a sharp 31.1 percent to 162.3 million barrels.

Fuel sales rose 0.8 percent from the year before to 109.1 million barrels. Light oil fared particularly well, reflecting strong demand from transport-related industries, the ministry official said.

Those of "C" fuel oil, however, sharply declined as the cool summer dampened demand from power companies.

Council Proposes Increasing Graduate Students

OW2511104891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0943 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 25 KYODO—A university council Monday submitted to Education Minister Kunio Hatoyana a proposal to double the number of Japan's graduate school students by the year 2000, government officials said.

The advisory body to the education minister, chaired by Keio University president Tadao Ishikawa, calls for financial measures in expanding graduate schools nationwide.

The council's report says it is essential to drastically increase the number of graduate school students, from the present 100,000 to 200,000, for training more creative researchers.

The report also stresses the necessity to reeducate working members of the society to make them catch up on advances in academic studies and industrial technology.

The council proposes several measures of accepting more working members to graduate schools, such as establishing a new graduate school in central Tokyo because of the convenient location.

Nuclear Accident Linked To Faulty Inspections

OW2511124891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1206 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 25 KYODO—Inadequate inspection procedures were responsible for an accident at the Kansai Electric Power Co's Mihama nuclear power plant in Fukui Prefecture in February, a final report on the incident said Monday.

The report, submitted to a committee led by Prof. Emeritus Kunihiro Iida of Tokyo University, said the accident resulted in a release of radation when a tube inside a steam generator broke.

The investigation was ordered by the Natural Resources and Energy Agency within the Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

The report said the February 9 accident was due to an ususual set of circumstances caused by faulty construction in which a metallic antivibration bar (AVB) did not extend to corroded tubes and the space between the tubes and a supporting plate had rusted to allow severe vibrations and eventual metal fatigue and breakage.

The tubes, which run in a series of loops, are supposed to be held together by the AVB.

But the device was not installed around as many tubes as called for in the reactor blueprint and the break in the tube allowed water to flow out of the reactor core into the secondary system.

In the Mihama plant accident, the reactor's emergency core cooling system was activated to avert a possible meltdown after 55 tons of radioactive water leaked from the main cooling system into the secondary system that powers the plant's turbine.

The ministry said that since it was the first time in Japan an emergency core cooling system has been activated, it caused widespread concern in the community.

It said that since the fault was not detected in advance, improved management and inspection procedures in line with those mentioned in the June interim report should be put in place.

The measures include the development and introduction of technology to ensure adequate checks on the tubes, and the updating of an operations manual to take account of revised procedures in the event of a breakdown in such vital parts as the pressure vent.

A midterm report on the accident said that as a result of faulty construction, the main cause of the accident was the AVB, originally designed to stabilize the tubes, which was fastened 40-50 centimeters too short and did not extend as far as the broken tubes.

In addition to the faulty AVB, the report gives a new finding that of the six support plates attached to the damaged tubes, there is a gap of about 0.2 millimeters between the uppermost sixth one and the tube was blocked with accumulated rust and sludge from the past 14 years.

The report found that since the AVB did not extend to the tubes, boiling water flowing past them at high speed made them prone to hydrodynamically elastic vibrations leaving the support plate as a focal point for the vibrations, causing it to undergo more than the usual amount of strain.

As a result, over an extended period, the plate and the broken tube rubbed against each other under the constant vibrations causing the fissure in the tube to expand and break at the point where it was in contact with the support plate.

Mitsubishi Heavy Industries admitted responsibility on the day of the accident for not installing the AVB according to specifications, adding that there was no system in place to check on the installation.

A similar case of a split in a tube occured at the North Anna [as received], Virginia, nuclear power plant in the United States in July 1987.

During the accident, the agency said about 0.6 curies of radiation leaked into the atmosphere, an amount which it said was too small to cause environmental problems.

Nonpartisan Wins Nara Gubernatorial Election

OW2411125691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1202 GMT 24 Nov 91

[Text] Nara, Nov. 24 KYODO—Former Deputy Gov. Yoshiya Kakimoto won by a landslide Sunday in a gubernatorial election in Nara Prefecture, western Japan, against a Communist-backed candidate, early returns showed.

As of 8:20 P.M. Sunday with 29 percent of the ballots counted, the independent Kakimoto had 81,629 votes while Hideo Konya, backed by the Communist Party, had 25,196 votes, election officials said.

The gubernatorial election came after 70-year-old Shigeru Ueda resigned as governor because of his age half way through his third term.

Kakimoto, 53, a former Home Affairs Ministry official, had an advantage over Konya because Kakimoto had the support of the Liberal Democratic Party, Komeito, and the Democratic Socialist Party.

The largest opposition party, the Social Democratic Party, did not field a candidate in the race.

During the campaign, Konya criticized the development-oriented administration and pledged to provide free medicare to the elderly if he was elected.

As of 3 P.M. Sunday, voter turnout in the election was a record low of 27.56 percent, the election officials said.

North Korea

U.S.-ROK Security Consultative Meeting Viewed

SK2511074591 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0014 GMT 24 Nov 91

[NODONG SINMUN 24 November commentary: "A Dangerous Military Meeting To Provoke a New War"]

[Text] The 23d annual security consultative meeting between the United States and the South Korean puppets was held in Seoul for two days, beginning on 20 November, with U.S. and South Korean military bosses attending. The 13th military committee meeting and defense ministers' talks were also held during this period. U.S. Secretary of Defense Cheney inspected a U.S. unit stationed near the Military Demarcation Line on 20 November and inspired war fever there.

The annual security consultative meeting and the military committee meeting which reportedly discussed the so-called issue of checking the North's development of nuclear weapons and the issue of signing a wartime host nation support agreement as basic agenda items were a criminal confab of war maniacs to aggravate tension on the Korean peninsula and to light the fuse of a war of northward invasion under the pretext of checking the fictitious threat of nuclear development by the North.

This was clearly proven by the content of the joint communique and official reports that were released after the confab and the content of remarks by the U.S. defense secretary and the puppet national defense minister in their joint press conference following the confab.

According to this, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets, babbling that the North should unconditionally accept international nuclear inspection on all of its nuclear facilities, declared that the plan for second phase reduction of U.S. forces occupying South Korea will be postponed indefinitely until the threat of nuclear development disappears, while clamoring that they have agreed to place international, diplomatic, and economic pressure on and sanctions against us and even to take strong military measures. Moreover, they went so far as to say in their joint communique that the measures taken by the international community at the time of the Gulf crisis will be a model in deterring the threat of a regional dispute on the Korean peninsula. They also said that they have agreed to continue the Team Spirit joint military exercise against us; to deploy in South Korea more of the latest weapons, including Patriot missiles, in a bid to strengthen deterrence against the North; to increase their intelligence collection capability; and to cooperate with each other in the production of military equipment and in the field of military technology.

As one sees, the military confab between the United States and the South Korean puppets this time was a dangerous war confab at which they hatched a sinister plot to further increase their aggressive and treacherous military ties, to formally revoke the plan of phased reduction of U.S. forces in South Korea, to step up the arms buildup, and to further accelerate preparations for a nuclear war of aggression, while openly threatening and blackmailing us on the false pretext of checking nuclear development by the North. In particular, the military confab this time was an allout challenge to the Korean people's cause of peace and reunification, ran counter to the international trend of detente, and openly exposed the antipeace, antidialogue, and antireunification stance of the United States and the the South Korean rulers to freeze North- South relations and North-South dialogue which are now in progress.

For the persons in military authority in the United States and South Korea to openly hatch a plot of war against us in a war confab at a time when various forms of contact and dialogue are being held between the North and the South, reflecting our nation's desire for national reconciliation and detente, cannot but be viewed as a belligerent, rash act making us feel deep apprehension for the future of North-South dialogue. An agreement was reached at the North-South high-level talks to adopt a common document on North- South reconciliation, nonaggression, cooperation, and exchange; and its drafting is currently under way.

The military confab between the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets is not only a flagrant infringement upon detente on the Korean peninsula and its reunification cause, but is also an intolerable threat to peace and security in our Republic and Asia. The U.S. imperialists' and the South Korean puppets' clamoring about the threat of our nuclear weapons development and checking it is a shameless, false propaganda reminding one of a thief crying "stop thief!" It is is also a despicable trick to impair our Republic's peace-loving stand and antinuclear policy and to cover up and justifiy their own adventurous scheme for a nuclear war.

Our Republic has clarified many times, not just once or twice, that it has no intention to produce nuclear weapons nor has it the capability of producing them, that it is ready to sign a nuclear safeguard accord at any time according to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, and that it does not oppose nuclear inspection. The ringleader who is creating the nuclear threat on the Korean peninsula and attempting to trigger a nuclear war there is none other than the U.S. imperialist aggressors—who have deployed more than 1,000 nuclear weapons in South Korea and who are watching a chance to launch a nuclear attack against our Republic—and their puppets.

If the United States sincerely wants to prevent nuclear weapons proliferation on the Korean peninsula, it should not cling to the commotion of placing pressure on us to accept nuclear inspection, but should follow the procedure of withdrawing all its nuclear weapons from South Korea, thus removing the nuclear threat to us, and then verifying it through a simultaneous inspection of the North and the South as we have already proposed. This is the only most realistic and reasonable solution of the matter. On all accounts, attempting to search our territory where there are no nuclear weapons, while leaving South Korea, where numerous U.S. nuclear weapons have been deployed, as it is, is clearly a brigandish act running counter to international justice.

The U.S. imperialists' and the South Korean puppets' loud outcry for nuclear inspection on the plea of fictitious nuclear development by the North is aimed at reinforcing their nuclear armed forces, stepping up nuclear development of South Korea, and furthermore, provoking an adventurous nuclear war against the North on the pretext of our refusal to accept it. Such an attempt can be clearly seen even in the fact that they indefinitely postponed the phased reduction of the U.S. forces occupying South Korea and decided to continue the Team Spirit joint military exercise, giving the conditions of if the North does not accept nuclear inspection, and that they have made an aggressive and treacherous criminal war document called the wartime host nation support agreement .

The wartime host nation support agreement that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets sealed at their military confab this time is an aggressive and plundering war agreement which makes it possible for the United States to further strengthen its military rule and control over South Korea, to further perfect the preparations for a new war, to make the provocation of a new war in Korea an established fact, and to more effectively commandeer and mobilize human and material resources for the war.

It is already well known to the world that U.S. imperialists, who have become extremely arrogant with the Persian Gulf war as an occasion and who claim themselves to be the only superpower of the world, have mapped out a new military strategy to cope with the crisis of regional conflicts and are attempting to apply this in the Korean peninsula, while nursing the delusions of attempting to establish a new world order by force.

Clamoring that the region where the danger of a regional war is the highest following the Persian Gulf is precisely the Korean peninsula, the U.S. ruling circles have mapped out not only an operational plan to eliminate our nonexistent nuclear facilities, but also even a 120-day war scenario, and by mapping out a war document called the wartime host nation support agreement they have also completed not only the (?precondition) which can unlimitedly and rapidly mobilize their armed forces of aggression from the U.S. mainland and overseas military bases, but also the systematic device which more easily guarantees the military activity of the aggression forces. This fact clearly proves that they are attempting to establish a new order in Asia and the Pacific by aggravating tensions in a divided region such as the Korean peninsula and, thus, triggering a new nuclear war.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are frantically trying to block the pace of our people who are vigorously advancing along the road of socialism under the banner of the immortal chuche idea. However, this is a foolish delusion. Our people are the dignified people who treasure national dignity and independence more than their lives. They are not such a people who are softened before the reckless threat and blackmail policy of the imperialists and their stooges.

We aspire for peace and do not want war, but we are never afraid of it. Our people who have firmly united as one mind around the party and the leader are keenly watching the maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets for aggression and war and are fully prepared to cope with any sudden situation. Should the aggressors dare start a reckless war gamble, obsessed with war fever, failing to look straight at the will of our people, we will deal a thousand-fold counterblow to the provokers. The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets should act with discretion, not running riot with their anachronistic daydream.

ROK 'Servility' to U.S. Noted

SK2511064891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0536 GMT 25 Nov 91

["'Service' of Traitor"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang November 25 (KCNA)—The No Taeu ruling group was accused of rendering "excessive service" for the U.S. delegates to the 23rd U.S.-South Korea "annual security consultative council meeting" held in Seoul. Its mean act is under fire in NODONG SINMUN today.

The South Korean rulers placed a "strict guard" around U.S.- related organs from before U.S. military brasshats flew into Seoul and, during their stay in Seoul, emptied the parking lot in front of the puppet defence ministry building for several cars serving the U.S. defense secretary and the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff and their suite members.

Though they were humiliated in the United States, the South Korean rulers protected and served U.S. military bosses with such servility. This shows that the United States and South Korea are in master-servant relationship, the news analyst says, and continues:

Even the fate of the South Korean "president" is dependent upon the United States. The South Korean rulers rendered such "excessive service" for their masters to win their favor and remain in power.

The U.S. military brasshats did not visit South Korea to do good things for peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula. They are aggressors with a design to plunge our nation into a nuclear holocaust. It is inevitable that such fellows invite the protest of the people and what the puppets did for the protection of their masters is a token of their fear of the people's protest.

Envoy to PRC Condemns U.S. Over Nuclear Issue

SK2611035791 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2200 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] A press conference was held at the DPRK embassy in China in connection with the moves by the United States and its suzerain forces to put international pressure on our country concerning nuclear inspection, moves that are becoming more undisguised with the passage of time.

At the press conference were reporters from Chinese papers, a news agency, and broadcasting stations, along with foreign correspondents stationed in China.

DPRK Ambassador to China Chu Chang-chun spoke at the press conference.

Chu said the United States and its suzerain forces have recently spread an opinion, now depicting us as if we are only months away from developing nuclear weapons, which is a sudden switch from their earlier position that it would take us years to develop nuclear weapons. He stressed that this is nothing but a thoroughly preposterous sophistry, and he denounced it as a slanderous trick aimed at even further intensifying the international pressure on us.

He stressed: For the United States to genuinely prevent nuclear proliferation on the Korean peninsula, they should remove nuclear weapons from South Korea as we have already proposed instead of clinging to stirring up a commotion against us. After removing the nuclear threat against us, all they have to do is to agree to verify its absence through simultaneous inspections of the North and South. This is the most realistic and reasonable way of settlement and there can be no other conditions.

He said: We are not against nuclear inspection. It is not so much the nuclear inspection itself that we oppose, but the unjustness of the United States and its suzerain forces, which are attempting to impose nuclear inspection on us, who have no nuclear weapons, instead of trying to conduct nuclear inspection of South Korea, where the nuclear weapons are deployed.

He then insisted that it is due to the U.S. obstructive move that the nuclear safeguards accord has not been signed yet.

Saying that the accord should be implemented based on the principle of equality and fairness, he stated that in order to help create an environment and atmosphere for signing the safeguards accord at an early date, the United States should immediately discontinue the commotion of putting international pressure on us.

He then said: Since it promised that it will withdraw its nuclear weapons from South Korea, the United States should guarantee that it will not use nuclear weapons against us rather than uttering empty words, make public the kinds and exact number of its nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea, present a timetable for their withdrawal at an early date, and take the measure of fully and completely withdrawing all the nuclear weapons.

He exposed the facts that deputy U.S. Under Secretary of Defense and U.S. Secretary of Defense, who picked a quarrel with us on our nonexistent development of nuclear weapons, babbled that "military action is the only choice at present" or that "a delay of further reductions of U.S. troops stationed in South Korea is needed until North Korea allows international inspection of its nuclear facilities." He also disclosed that such a move by the United States shows that its proposal for withdrawing nuclear weapons is nothing but empty talk, a sophistry aimed at deceiving the world, and that it seeks to provide South Korea with an excuse to develop nuclear weapons and to topple our system by attacking our Republic.

He noted that the so-called declaration of denuclearization published in early November by a South Korean authority is nothing new, as it was fabricated according to a U.S. scenario. He said it is unrealistic to babble about denuclearization without saying so much as a word about the withdrawal of U.S. nuclear weapons, which constitutes the heart of turning the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone.

In conclusion, he peremptorily condemned the moves by the United States and its suzerain forces as a grave challenge to the Korean people and the people of the world who love peace and justice, as well as a move aimed at driving mankind into a nuclear holocaust. He then strongly demanded that the United States stop the commotion of putting international pressure on us without delay and agree to our proposal for creating a nuclear-free zone.

Following this, the ambassador answered reporters' questions.

Unity Group Questions No's Denuclearization Call

SK2511111091 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1314 GMT 24 Nov 91

[Questionnaire issued by the Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland; dated 24 November]

[Text] The Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland [CPRF] issued an open questionnaire on the denuclearization declaration recently issued by the South Korean person in authority.

Open questionnaire of the CPRF Secretariat:

On 8 November No Tae-u issued a so-called declaration on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

The South Korean authorities, who had adamantly opposed the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, now said they are in favor of denuclearization. This statement is noteworthy, regardless of its true intentions, and we admit that it is a positive response to the denuclearization declaration we have already proposed.

However, the reaction at home and abroad since the announcement of this declaration has expressed doubt about its true intentions and whether the South Korean authorities truly desire denuclearization, because its contents are ambiguous and raise many questions. The CPRF Secretariat issued the following open questionnaire about the denuclearization declaration issued by the person in authority of South Korea.

1. If denuclearization is to be realized on the Korean peninsula, should it not encompass all the specific details for its realization? We have already issued a declaration on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula encompassing all of the specific details for denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

The declaration sets forth all of the specific details, such as prohibiting tests, production, import, possession, and use of nuclear weapons; banning the deployment of nuclear weapons on the Korean peninsula and its territory; banning passage through territorial airspace and waters, landing, and calling at ports of the planes and ships that carry or could carry nuclear weapons; the withdrawal of U.S. forces and nuclear weapons from the Korean peninsula; the abolition of nuclear bases there; not signing with other countries any treaty permitting the deployment or stockpiling of nuclear weapons and receiving a nuclear umbrella; and not conducting any military exercises on the Korean peninsula and its territories in which nuclear weapons or nuclear equipment is mobilized or a nuclear war is simulated.

Our denuclearization declaration is the most thorough, encompassing all important problems arising in denuclearizing the Korean peninsula.

The person in authority of South Korea, in his denuclearization declaration, stated only that the production, the possession, stockpiling, deployment, and use of nuclear weapons shall be banned. Denuclearization is meaningless if it permits the passage of a foreign county's nuclear weapons through the territory, waters, and airspace of the Korean peninsula, while leaving the other country's nuclear weapons, which have already been brought in, in place. Putting forth this inconclusive and perfunctory denuclearization declaration and mentioning denuclearization cannot convince the people at home and abroad who desire the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. If the South Korean authorities truly have the will to realize the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, they should not announce the insufficient denuclearization declaration, but affirmatively accept the denuclearization declaration we proposed.

No Tae-u must explain what he truly intended when he announced the extremely limited declaration on denuclearization, pretending to accept our denuclearization declaration.

2. Is the key question in the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula nuclear inspection for us or the U.S. nuclear weapons in South Korea? The person in authority of South Korea in his denuclearization declaration stressed at length that the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula depends on the nuclear inspection of us. However, this is between us and the International Atomic Energy Agency, not an affair for the South Korean authorities to meddle in.

As for denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, it is a problem because the United States has brought nuclear weapons into South Korea, as the world publicly admits. If the United States had not deployed nuclear weapons in South Korea, the issue of denuclearization on the Korean peninsula would not have to be raised.

Because the United States, a country having nuclear weapons, deployed some 1,000 nuclear weapons in South Korea and poses a constant threat to our republic, a non-nuclear state, we made an epochal proposal in 1986 for the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and have made every sincere effort for its realization.

Nuclear weapons are in the South, not in North, on the Korean peninsula. Accordingly, denuclearization should begin with a total and complete withdrawal of U.S. nuclear weapons from South Korea. This should be the main content of denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

However, the issue of withdrawing the U.S. nuclear weapons is not mentioned at all in No Tae-u's denuclearization declaration. Rather, the No Tae-u ring completely ignored the issue of withdrawing U.S. nuclear weapons, which is a key point in turning the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone, and took issue with us without any reason. This is aimed at subduing the calls at home and abroad for withdrawing U.S. nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea and at finding a pretext for manufacturing nuclear weapons.

If the No Tae-u ring really intends the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, it should not propose nuclear inspection of our side, but should withdraw U.S. nuclear weapons from South Korea, which is a realistic danger. If U.S. nuclear weapons remain as they are, turning the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone cannot be done.

How can a demand for an unreasonable nuclear inspection be regarded as legitimate while disregarding the pullout of U.S. nuclear weapons, a matter of key importance in the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula? No Tae-u should give a convincing answer to the world.

3. Does the No Tae-u ring see not only its poor position of not uttering a single word about U.S. nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea, but also the limits of the South Korean authorities in resolving the issue of denuclearization?

The world officially recognizes that there are approximately 1,000 nuclear weapons in South Korea. Nonetheless, because the South Korean authorities have adopted the so-called policy of neither confirming nor denying the presence of nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea, they will not speak a single word about the nuclear weapons deployed on their land.

Recently the U.S. authorities admitted that their tactical nuclear weapons have been deployed in South Korea. Even though the South Korean authorities know that there are U.S. nuclear weapons on their land, they are in a poor position by not saying a single word about this. For this reason, No Tae-u could not mention in his denuclearization declaration the number of U.S. nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea, which is a basic issue in denuclearizing the Korean peninsula; the date and way of withdrawing U.S. nuclear weapons; and banning the passage of aircraft and warships carrying nuclear weapons. This shows not only that the South Korean authorities allowed U.S. nuclear weapons without obtaining the people's approval, but also that they have blindly followed a U.S. nuclear policy.

Although the South Korean authorities published a denuclearization declaration this time, what matters is that the United States fails to give assurances that it will totally and completely withdraw its nuclear weapons and that it would not introduce planes and warships carrying nuclear weapons.

The South Korean authorities have no choice but to believe the United States when it says that warplanes or warships actually carrying nuclear weapons are not loaded with them. In addition, there is no alternative for the South Korean authorities but to declare denuclearization with nuclear weapons left intact in South Korea, if the United States wanted them to, although the nuclear weapons have not been withdrawn.

Who on earth is master of South Korea? Why should the U.S. policy of neither confirming nor denying the presence of nuclear weapons be adopted even in South Korea? In addition, why should the South Korean authorities engage in the farce of receiving the right to negotiate the nuclear issue with the North from another?

The United States said it transferred to the South Korean puppets the right to negotiate nuclear weapons with the North, but these are empty words. While talking about giving the South Korean puppets the right to negotiate the nuclear issue with the North, the United States has not given them the right to negotiate the withdrawal of U.S. forces occupying South Korea and their nuclear weapons, which is a major point in negotiating the nuclear issue with the North.

The United States owns the nuclear weapons in South Korea. The South Korean authorities are nothing but servants, drawing the nuclear coach of foreign forces and following their master's orders. Thus, babbling about negotiating the nuclear issue with us is presumptuous.

Even though they have no rights at all to U.S. nuclear weapons and cannot speak a single word about them, talking about turning the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone mocks opinion at home and abroad. No Tae-u should answer this.

4. What is the real intention of begging for other's protection of a nuclear umbrella while talking about denuclearization?

After publishing a denuclearization declaration, the South Korean authorities let their underlings say that protection under the U.S. nuclear umbrella is completely realistic and that the United States gave firm assurances of a nuclear umbrella protection. This reveals their intention to be protected by a nuclear umbrella of strategic nuclear weapons, instead of the former tactical nuclear umbrella. This shows that they have not taken the attitude of resolving a nuclear issue.

Achieving denuclearization lies in rescuing the country and nation from the danger of a nuclear war holocaust. It is never reasonable to talk about discussing denuclearization of the Korean peninsula while foreign forces toy with the fate of the country and the nation with tactical nuclear weapons or strategic nuclear weapons. For this reason, the denuclearization about which No Tae-u is babbling has, in fact, no meaning.

The South Korean authorities have put our land and people in danger of a nuclear holocaust for dozens of years by allowing U.S. nuclear weapons in South Korea without obtaining the approval of the nation. Our nation is demanding that they completely remove foreign forces' nuclear weapons to avoid an historical responsibility and a crime to the nation. How can they intend to denuclearize the Korean peninsula while disregarding such a national demand and wanting to be protected by the U.S. nuclear umbrella? No Tae-u should clearly reveal his stand on this.

5. If the claim of not manufacturing nuclear weapons is true, the South Korean authorities should open existing reprocessing facilities and nuclear enrichment facilities and reveal them.

The South Korean authorities are busy with facilities for uranium enrichment and nuclear reprocessing intended for the manufacture of nuclear weapons.

Recently, the South Korean authorities have been influencing the army and government-patronized scholars to regard Japan as South Korea's number one enemy capable of producing nuclear weapons. While saying that they should be a hedgehog equipped with nuclear armed forces for existence, the South Korean authorities are inciting in them the fever to produce nuclear weapons. This is intended to find a pretext for building up facilities for obtaining a high enrichment uranium of more than 90 percent for nuclear weapons production. In addition, they want reprocessing facilities capable of producing nuclear weapons after using the high enrichment uranium.

According to South Korean publications, last summer the South Korean authorities sent a visiting delegation of nuclear experts and other businessmen concerned to a country to visit a uranium enrichment factory and reprocessing facilities. The delegation's special concern is the method of laser enrichment, which the country has finished developing in recent years.

Laser enrichment is used to obtain a high enrichment uranium of more than 90 percent by emitting a laser ray just once.

According to South Korean publications, the atomic research centers in South Korea are promoting a joint study to develop the laser enrichment method with that country.

In the meantime, the South Korean authorities are running wild building up facilities for enriched uranium. On 1 August the South Korean puppet's Ministry of Trade and Industry developed a second item: an ultra-high-speed centrifugal separator with 60,000 revolutions a minute, which is directly related to uranium enrichment. Thus, the South Korean authorities themselves revealed that they are trying to get enriched uranium.

The South Korean puppets are doing everything possible to complete reprocessing facilities. A person deeply involved in developing nuclear weapons for South Korea in the 1970's admitted that (Wolsong) distiller [*chungsuro*] introduced from Canada had been manufacturing nuclear weapons.

All of these facts show that unusual activities have been secretly and briskly promoted in South Korea. No Tae-u revealed in the denuclearization declaration that South Korea will not possess reprocessing and nuclear enrichment facilities. If this is true, he should immediately stop promoting a joint study to develop a method for laser enrichment. He should, above all, demonstrate his pragmatism by discarding reprocessing and enrichment facilities which have been revealed to the world. No Tae-u should clarify his stand on it.

The issue of turning the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone is related to the life and death of the nation. The questions we ask are directly related to turning the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone. If his denuclearization declaration is not false, No Tae-u should duly respond to the principles and answer the basic questions we ask.

We will watch the attitude and stand of the South Korean authorities, along with all of the fellow countrymen, toward our questionnaire.

Infiltration of South 'Combatant Ships' Blocked

SK2611112591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1102 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Pyongyang November 26 (KCNA)—The South Korean puppets committed a grave military provocation by infiltrating a group of combatant ships deep into the territorial waters off the west coast of our side on November 26.

They illegally infiltrated three combatant ships into the territorial waters of our side after sending three combatant ships deep into the territorial waters southwest of the Ongjin Peninsula of our side openly in a broad daylight in a combat formation for the purpose of kidnapping our peaceful fishing boats and committing an aggressive hostile act against us.

When a patrol boat of the navy of the Korean People's Army on its routine coastal patrol duty sallied forth, the puppets' warships fled posthaste to the South, their heinous attempt foiled.

The infiltration of the group of warships by the South Korean puppets did not expand into an armed conflict between the two sides entirely thanks to the great patience and restraint of the soldiers of our People's Army.

The reckless military provocation of the South Korean puppets was a premeditated one to lay a deliberate obstacle in the way of North-South dialogue and further aggravate the situation on the Korean peninsula.

O Chin-u Leaves for 'Rest' in PRC 25 Nov

SK2511231691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2220 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Pyongyang November 25 (KCNA)—O Chin-u, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and minister of People's Armed Forces, left here today by air to take a rest in the People's Republic of China.

He was seen off at the airport by Choe Kwang, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army; Chon Mun-sop, vice- minister of People's Armed Forces; Colonel General Yi Pong-won and Lieutenant General Hong Kye-song of the Korean People's Army.

Also on hand were Zheng Yi, Chinese ambassador to Korea, and Yin Guangtao, military attache of the Chinese Embassy here.

Arrives in Beijing

SK2511232291 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2300 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Comrade O Chin-u, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Workers' Party of Korea and minister of the People's Armed Forces, arrived in Beijing by plane on 25 November.

The minister of the People's Armed Forces was welcomed at the airport by Chi Haotian, chief of the General Staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, and by Chu Chang-chun, DPRK ambassador to China.

Japanese Remarks on Normalization Talks Criticized

SK2611000991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2214 GMT 25 Nov 91

["Nonsensical Outburst"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang November 25 (KCNA)—Japanese Foreign Minister Watanabe was reported to have prattled at a press interview on November 22 that the U.S. step to "postpone" the withdrawal of its armed forces from South Korea if the North fails to stop what he called "development of nuclear weapons" would "help" "promote the talks for the normalisation of DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations," according to a report.

This is a ridiculous talk.

As is known, the issue of the "development of nuclear weapons" by us is what the United States invented to find a pretext for a war against the North and its talk about deferring the plan for the phased cutdown of the U.S. forces on account of someone's "development of nuclear weapons" glaringly reveals the true intention of the U.S. imperialists not to withdraw its forces from South Korea. Accordingly, this issue can in no way be linked with the question of the normalisation of DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations.

The utterances of the Japanese foreign minister prove that the Japanese authorities are still involved in the anti-reunification, anti-DPRK moves of the United

States, far from going in for the normalization of the relations with the DPRK, in spite of the call of unbiased public opinion.

Progress of the talks for normalizing DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations entirely depends on how the Japanese side responds to our just demand for compensation and whether Japan stops the row about "nuclear inspection" raised according to the script of the United States or not.

If one thinks we will yield to outside pressure, he will only betray his ignorance of our independent Republic.

The Japanese authorities had better honestly work for the normalization of DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations, instead of dancing to the tune of others, reading other's face.

Joint Bank Venture Begins With Hong Kong Firm

SK2311102191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0956 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Text] The Korean Reunification Development Bank, a joint venture of the Osandok General Bureau of the DPRK and the Hong Kong Overseas Chinese Investment Corporation, Ltd., was founded in Pyongyang.

This bank is authorized to conduct bank settlements, loaning, depositing and other financial businesses and set up branch banks at home and abroad according to the domestic and international banking laws.

It will in the future contribute to developing the economy and sciences and technologies of the DPRK and expanding and strengthening business relations with banks of the world.

An inaugural ceremony of the bank took place in Pyongyang on November 22.

Present there were Yi Il-man, director of the Osandok General Bureau, other officials concerned and the delegation of the Hong Kong Overseas Chinese Investment Corporation, Ltd. headed by its President Wei Honglong on a visit to Korea.

Fourth North-South Contact Held at Panmunjom

SK2611103491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1025 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Kaesong November 26 (KCNA)—The fourth contact between delegates to the fifth inter-Korean high-level talks was made in the southern portion of Panmunjom from 10:00 today.

The contact was held behind closed doors.

At the contact a discussion was resumed to work out a joint document of agreement which would be adopted at the fifth high- level talks.

Women's Delegation Arrives in Seoul for Seminar

SK2511104291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1005 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul November 25 (KCNA correspondent)—A DPRK women's delegation arrived here in Seoul at 12:20 today to participate in the second seminar on "Peace of Asia and the Role of Women."

Arriving here were the delegation headed by Yo Yon-ku, vice- chairwoman of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly, Presidium member of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland and permanent member of the C.C., Korean Democratic Women's Union (KDWU), and its entourage. The delegation consists of Kim Son-ok, vice-minister of reception for overseas compatriots and member of the C.C., KDWU; Chong Myong-sun, councillor of the Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland and member of the C.C., KDWU; Hong Son-ok, chief of the reunification affairs research room of the Disarmament and Peace Institute; and Choe Ok-hui, a theological student of the C.C., the Korean Christian Federation.

The delegation was met by officials concerned of the South side's executive committee for the seminar.

The nearly 80 kilometre long route from Munsan off the Joint Security Area of the military demarcation line at Panmunjom to Seoul were overflowing with a large number of women and people of broad strata in the South who turned out to greet and welcome the delegation as a mission of reunification comprising independent civilians.

Many women and broad sections of citizens of Seoul warmly welcomed the delegation at Ramada Olympia Hotel where it will put up.

Issues Arrival Statement

SK2611043591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0406 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul November 26 (KCNA Correspondent)—Chong Myong-sun, the spokeswoman for the North side's women's delegation, on November 25 published a statement upon arrival in Seoul to participate in the second seminar on "Peace of Asia and the Role of Women". She said the women's delegation from the northern half of Korea would do all it could to make a success of the seminar on "Peace of Asia and the Role of Women" at which women of the North and the South would sit together so as to live up to the expectations of all the women and the entire fellow countrymen in the North and the South.

During its stay in Seoul our delegation will widely contact South Korean organizations and women of broad strata and have open- hearted discussions with them as regards measures to briskly conduct independent exchange and contact between women of the North and the South in the future, she said.

Noting that the delegation has come to Seoul with comfort articles from broad sections of people in the northern half of Korea to the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan, woman student Yim Su-kyong, the "Flower of Reunification," Father Mun Kyu-hyon, Mr. Yu Won-ho and others who visited Pyongyang two years ago with a noble patriotic intention for reunification and are now suffering in prison for their debates on reunification with fellow countrymen, and their families and old man Yi In-mo, a former war correspondent of the Korean People's Army, she expressed the hope that the delegation would be able to go and console them and hand them the comfort articles directly, availing itself of its visit to Seoul.

Head Delegate Speaks at Dinner

SK2611055091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0505 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul November 25 (KCNA Correspondent)—The South side's executive committee Monday evening arranged a dinner for the North side's and Japanese women's delegations to the second seminar on "Peace of Asia and Role of Women."

Invited to the dinner were the North side's delegation headed by Yo Yon-ku, vice-chairwoman of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Presidium member of the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland and permanent member of the Central Committee of the Korean Democratic Women's Union, and its suite and reporters.

Also invited were the members of the Japanese delegation headed by Sumiko Shimizu, chairperson of the Japan Women's Association.

Yi U-chong, vice-chairwoman of the South Korean Christian Church Council and chairwoman of the Democratic Party, and other officials of the executive committee were present.

A speech was made by Yo Yon-ku, head of our side's delegation.

With the continued division of the nation and territory the common prosperity of the nation cannot be promoted and, worse still, the people are in constant uneasiness under the threat of another war, the North and the South standing opposed in political and military confrontation.

Asking if one could remain an onlooker to this rigorous reality in which the continued division is spelling the danger of a war, a nuclear war, that might exterminate the nation, she said reunification is the only way out for our nation, the way of freeing our women from misfortunes.

What is important, she said, is for us, as brothers and sisters of the same blood, to achieve reconciliation and unity of the nation, irrespective of ideology and system.

We, whether in the North or in the South or overseas, should open jointly a way of living together, conscious of our being one nation, first of all.

It is urgent and feasible to do so, Yo Yon-ku stressed, and went on:

We keenly experienced this long ago through the Pyongyang visit of Mr. Kim Ku, Paekbom by alias, and only recently through the visit of Rev. Mun Ik-hwan and coed Yim Su-kyong to Pyongyang, and joint cheering for the members of unified "Korea" teams.

We women in the North are firmly determined to meet with all women in the South desirous of reunification any time, regardless of ideology and idea and ism and make all efforts to contribute to the noble cause of reunification by pooling wisdom and strength with them.

Speeches were also made by the South side and the Japanese side at the dinner.

South's Charges Refuted

SK2611105591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1014 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul November 25 (KCNA correspondent)—The South side's authorities began to direct the arrows of their attack at the North side's delegation which came to Seoul to participate in the second seminar on "Peace of Asia and the Role of Women."

An instance of it is that a spokesman for the "Unification Board" on November 25 took issue with the arrival statement of the North side's delegation, saying the delegation "discarded the points agreed upon" by showing its intention to go and console the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan, woman student Yim Su-kyong and other arrested visitors to the North and this means that it would conduct "insidious political activities."

Preposterous is the South side's allegation that we "discarded the points agreed upon". This is a lie invented to vilify the North side.

We had never agreed with the South side's authorities not to go to console the visitors to the North.

As for "insidious political activities" over which the South Korean authorities slandered us, it is likewise a groundless abuse against our delegation.

We do never seek any "insidious political aim" in intending to go and console the visitors to the North.

Generally speaking, to go to console and inspire those who suffer in prison is a usage permissible in any country and it is a matter of elementary human rights.

As far as the visitors to the North who are now subjected to all sufferings behind the bars are concerned, they are patriotic figures who had conducted activities for the cause of national reunification; they have never slandered or opposed the South side's system.

This notwithstanding, the South Korean authorities, much upset by our will to go and console them, are trying to find a pretext for checking it. This is an act to throw a wet blanket over the ardent desire of the people in the northern half of Korea who make much of and love the pro-reunification patriotic figures. It is an anti-national, anti-reunification act to block the road to harmony and unity of the fellow countrymen and reunification.

Through the Korea Broadcasting System (KBS), the South Korean authorities also took issue even with the visit of the head of our delegation to her father's grave. This only shows that they unhesitatingly stoop to any infamy going against elementary common knowledge and etiquette.

The South Korean authorities must correct their wrong habit of speaking ill of guests after inviting them. It will never benefit them.

South Korea

U.S. Protests Departure Ban on Citizen

SK2311121891 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 23 Nov 91 p 15

[Text] When the ROK Government issued a departure ban on a U.S. citizen who has been under investigation on charges of unfair labor practices and tax evasion, the U.S. Government protested it and pressured the ROK Government to improve its exit-entry regulations and to use flexibility. This has become a new source of dispute between the ROK and the United States.

The U.S. Government has even expressed its position that if this demand is not fulfilled, it would put the ROK on the travel advisory country list. This has aroused a strong denunciation and people say this is an infringement on our sovereignty.

Applying Article 25 of the Exit and Entry Control Act, the ROK Government issued a departure ban on Mr. Playford Ramsey, former head of the ROK branch of Duty Free Shoppers, a U.S. company, against whom a complaint was filed to the ROK Labor Ministry and the ROK National Tax Administration Office on charges of unjustified firings of his employees and tax evasion.

As head of the ROK branch of Duty Free Shopper's, a worldwide operator of duty free shops, Mr. Ramsey had worked for five years at the Hotel Shilla Duty Free Shop, giving advice on commodity supply, technological matters, and sales promotion. His term expired last July. So he was scheduled to leave at that time.

However, 10 Korean employees who he fired while closing his office filed a complaint at the Labor Ministry and the National Tax Administration Office in connection with their firings and severance pay.

As required by law, the government issued a departure ban on Mr. Ramsey. Mr. Ramsey, in return, formally protested this via the U.S. Embassy to the ROK.

The U.S. Embassy asked the ROK Government to cancel the departure ban on the grounds that "it is unjust to issue a departure ban on Mr. Ramsey, a person who has not been found guilty but is a mere party in a commercial dispute." It was also learned that U.S. Ambassador to Korea Gregg sent a personal letter to Justice Minister Kim Ki-chun requesting "cooperation."

In this process, the U.S. side expressed strong dissatisfaction over Korea's Exit and Entry Control Act, which stipulates that a departure ban can be issued on an alien under investigation of fraud. It also asked the ROK Government to make efforts to improve the law or flexibly apply it.

It was also learned that the U.S. side expressed its position that if no satisfactory improvement is made on this matter, it would put Korea on the travel advisory country list and would issue a "travel warning" that says: "Beware because a departure ban can be issued on you in the ROK for mere involvement in a commercial and civilian dispute."

The United States has put North Korea, Libya, Cuba, and some Middle East countries on the "travel advisory country" list.

In the international community, a country being put on another country's "travel advisory country" list is considered to be an insult to the country involved.

Hyon Hong-chu, ROK ambassador to the United States, who has been staying in the ROK to attend the Security Consultative Meeting, told reporters on 22 November that the United States has strongly urged the ROK to improve its entry-exit regulations and practices; that the United States has said that it would "put the ROK on the 'travel advisory country' list" if this demand is not fulfilled satisfactorily; and that "the ROK and the United States have held negotiations on this."

In connection with this, legal experts said: "Based upon the so- called principle of being presumed innocent until proven guilty, the United States describes our Exit and Entry Control Act to be unjust. The United States saying something about our country may constitute an infringement on our sovereignty."

Article 25 of the current Exit and Entry Control Act says: "The Justice Minister may suspend exit of an alien, if the minister considers his exit undue because he is under criminal investigation on the suspicion of committing the crime of endangering the security of the ROK or disturbing public peace or any other grave crime. The minister may also suspend exit if one is a tax delinquent."

Ministry Denies U.S. Pressure

SK2411023091 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 24 Nov 91 p 2

[Text] The Justice Ministry denied a newspaper report Saturday of U.S. Government pressure to revise Korean entry-exit regulations and use "flexibility" in connection with a departure ban on an American businessman based in Seoul.

A ministry spokesman said Washington had not threatened to put Korea on its travel advisory country list unless it dropped the ban on Playford Ramsey, head of the Korean Branch of the Hong Kong-based U.S. company for duty free shopper's.

Tong-A Ilbo, a leading afternoon daily, reported in its Saturday editions that U.S. Ambassador to Korea Donald Gregg had sent a letter to Justice Minister Kim Ki-chun asking for his "cooperation" in settlement of the Ramsey case. The paper did not say when the letter was sent.

The spokesman said the ministry had nullified the suspension of Ramsey's departure early this month, "but not because of U.S. pressure."

Ramsey was prevented from leaving Korea in July after he was charged with tax evasion and unfair dismissal of Korean employees in the course of closing the Seoul branch, which supplied goods and technical and sales advices to the duty free shop at Hotel Shilla for five years until the contract expired in July.

Korean Ambassador to Washington Hyon Hong-chu told reporters Friday that consultations were going on between the two countries over the U.S. move to name Korea a "travel advisory country."

U.S. Figures' Remarks Show Manipulative Mindset

SK2611091591 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 24 Nov 91 p 2

[Article by Washington correspondent Chong Yon-chu in the "Fluoroscope" column: "Regarding the Korean Peninsula As a Chessboard"]

[Text] "Is the Korean peninsula a chessboard for the United States?"

This question will not go away after hearing the variety of remarks and proposals, including the use of military action against North Korea, made at a public hearing on the North Korean nuclear issue held by the U.S. House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on Asia and Pacific Affairs on 21 November.

In particular, former U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense Richard Perle's remarks at the hearing make us wonder whether he views the Korean peninsula as a land of 70 million warm-hearted inhabitants, or whether he sees it as a chessboard on which he can restart the game as he pleases after sweeping away all existing pawns.

"The only effective way is to destroy North Korea's nuclear facilities by military force immediately." "Diplomatic pressure and economic sanctions are only a waste of time and a foolish thing to do."

After insisting that military action is the one and only way, he said: "The operations range from elimination of the nuclear facilities by accurate aerial bombing of major facilities to committing ground troops to the site." These remarks are equivalent to manipulating the chess pieces to attack the queen as he wishes. It seems that he does not care about whether the use of military force will trigger a war and eventually lead to disaster on the Korean peninsula.

During his stay in Seoul for the consultative meeting on security affairs, U.S. Secretary of Defense Cheney sold a few Patriot missiles to the ROK Government and informed the Korean Government of the plan to conduct even larger joint military exercises next year for a show of force. In other words, the number of chess pieces are increasing on the chessboard and therefore the tension is intensified.

To mention another instance, in Washington on November 22 the conservative private research institute Heritage Foundation sponsored a symposium entitled "ROK-U.S. Relations—Challenging Maturity." Speaking about "Maturity of Trade Relations" at the symposium, Nancy Adams, deputy U.S. trade representative in charge of Korean affairs, said: The general public and the press are reluctant to share the benefits of free trade. Since the current trade deficit which the ROK is suffering is attributable to the increased import of capital goods from Japan, it is a very constructive trade deficit. Koreans should be more enlightened to understand what investment they should make for their future."

She says that "Koreans need more enlightenment on trade" merely because the chess game, also known as market-opening, does not turn out the way they wish.

What is it that has reduced our land, the Korean peninsula, to such a sad situation?

Samsung Signs Agreement To Produce F-16 Fighters

SK2611022091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0147 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 26 (YONHAP)—The Defense Ministry and Samsung Aerospace Co. have signed an agreement to produce F-16 fighters under license from General Dynamics of the United States, a company spokesman said Tuesday.

Samsung, main local contractor for the 5.2-billion-U.S.-dollar Korea Fighter Program (KFP), will produce 72 aircraft with technology transferred from the American company by 1999.

The ministry decided in March to procure 120 F-16 fighters to beef up Korea's air defenses. It will buy 12 finished planes, assemble 36 others with U.S.-supplied kits and co-produce the remaining 72 aircraft under license.

The subsidiary of the Samsung group will send 411 technicians to the United States by 1995 to acquire the technology.

Samsung has an aircraft manufacturing plant in Changwon and plans to build an assembly plant in Sachon, South Kyongsang Province.

Steel Exports to U.S. Hit by Antidumping Suits

SK2311021991 Seoul YONHAP in English 0101 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 23 (YONHAP)—Anti-dumping suits and weakened competitiveness have crippled exports to South Korea's No. 1 steel market, the United States, the Korea Iron and Steel Association (KOSA) said Saturday.

Korea may export 2,704,783 tons of steel products to America by March 1992 under the bilateral voluntary restraint agreement. As of the end of September, it had shipped 1,017,416 tons, or 37.62 percent of the quota, KOSA said.

Exports of cold rolled sheet, steel pipe and galvanized sheet were hit hardest, KOSA officials said.

Cold rolled sheet exports amounted to 60,882 tons, 16.66 percent of the quota, galvanized sheet sold 26,459 tons (18.57 percent) and steel pipe exports were 242,052 tons (39.79 percent).

It is unlikely that Korea will meet the export quota by March as the U.S. recently moved to impose anti-dumping measures on hot rolled sheet and cold rolled sheet, they said.

* Concern Over U.S., Japanese Security Roles

922C0006A Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 9 Sep 91 p 3

[Editorial: "Concern Over the Hegemony of the United States and Japan"]

[Text] It is reported that former U.S. president, Mr. Carter, and former Japanese prime minister, Mr. Nakasone, recently advised the U.S. President, Mr. Bush, to form a U.S.-Japanese security pact and to increase Japan's role in Asian security. The collapse of communism and the democratization of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe have brought on a historic change in the world. The east-west balance of power which lasted for almost half a century since the end of World War II is now tilting to one side. Talk of a United States-Japan security pact in Asia and suggestions that Japan increase its involvement arouses enormous interest among Koreans. Moreover, a report prepared jointly by the Strategy Research Centers of both countries is known to have listed the prevention of nuclear proliferation in the Korean peninsula as its first priority. This report also points out that a U.S.-Japanese alliance is essential for the security of the vast area extending from the Far East to the Indian Ocean.

To tell the truth, most Koreans are averse to the conceptions of these former high-level U.S. and Japanese officials, who were advised by strategists from both countries. There are two reasons for this. First, it reminds Koreans of the nation's irrevocable and tragic past which was brought on by the profit-motivated decisions of U.S. and Japanese officials of a bygone era. The United States, in arbitrating the end of the Russo-Japanese war, permitted Japan to forcefully occupy the Korean peninsula. Consequently, when Japan attempted to advance into China, Indochina, Southeast Asia, and Southwest Asia, the United States belatedly demanded Japan to withdraw only from China.

In security and trade relations, the United States has ignored Korea, by regarding Japan as "representative" of Asia, which implicitly dislikes the reunification of South and North Korea. Korea, therefore, cannot welcome the U.S. and Japanese security pact in East Asia.

Secondly, Korea cannot help being afraid of a new hegemony in the region.

Merely five years after World War II, the USSR tried to topple the balance of power in the Far East by causing the Korean war. The fragile balance of power, which lasted for 40 years since the end of the Korean war, is about to be broken. Gorbachev, probably fearing the outcome, unexpectedly proposed a friendship treaty with the ROK last April. Even before this, the USSR had consistently emphasized maintaining security in Asia.

The U.S.-Japanese pact or the Soviet's Asian security concern could turn into the cause for a repeat of the Korean tragedy of 100 years ago. Korea's future as a unified, prosperous, and independent nation may hang in the balance at this point.

Korea, therefore, should not welcome hegemony of any country or alliance of countries, whether it is the U.S.-Japanese alliance, the USSR or the Chinese in our region. Korea does not want to be a victim of silent power plays among powerful countries anymore. It is important to show the self-determination of Korean people on this matter. This alone is sufficient reason for the peoples of two Koreas to proceed with a constructive dialogue, and North Korea should not insist on sticking to the old order.

Soviet Envoy Invites Foreign Minister To Visit

SK2211094591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0933 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 22 (OANA-YONHAP)—Soviet Ambassador Oleg Sokolov on Friday invited South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok to visit the Soviet Union early next year, ministry officials said Friday.

Sokolov called on Yi to deliver and explain the draft of union of sovereign states treaty to be signed by the Soviet federal government and the republics.

Yi and the ambassador shared talks on the current developments in the Soviet Union and reorganization of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, now renamed Ministry of External Relations, officials said.

Sokolov asked that Yi visit the Soviet Union in the nearest future, especially to meet with reappointed Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

USSR To Grant Preferential Customs Procedures

SK2611140191 Seoul YONHAP in English 1308 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 26 (YONHAP)—Ermakov N. Aleksandrovich, chief of the Soviet Customs Administration, said Tuesday that his country decided to grant South Korea favored-nation status in customs sector beginning next year.

Meeting reporters after having talks with his Korean counterpart Kim Ki-in over bilateral cooperation in customs sector, Aleksandrovich said the Soviet Union plans to apply the "advance" customs clearance system to Korean exports to alleviate complex formalities Korean companies should undergo in the Soviet ports.

Under the system, the Korean exports to the Soviet Union will be cleared in advance by UACP, an agent commissioned by the Soviet government, before being shipped to the Soviet destinations. UACP, a Korean company, will start its work from early next year after completing necessary legal procedures here next month.

The Soviet Union has employed this system in trade with the United States only.

Trade Ministry Cites Investments in China

SK2111034091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0249 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 21 (YONHAP)—South Korean enterprises poured 48 million U.S. dollars into 78 investments in China during the first nine months of the year, the Trade and Industry Ministry said Thursday.

The number of investment permits issued by the government since the first investment in 1989 reached 143 worth 132 million dollars in September. Seventy-three investments were made in labor- intensive sectors of manufacturing, accounting for 86 percent of the total, the ministry said.

It said 80 percent (114) were in the Bohai Bay area in northern Shandong Province and in northeastern China.

Almost all Korean investments in China were small, with 77.6 percent of the 143 below 1 million dollars.

Only five investments were more than 2 million dollars this year, the ministry said.

Agricultural Imports From China Up 72.6 Percent

SK2311022191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0131 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 23 (YONHAP)—Imports of corn, peanuts and other agricultural products from China soared 72.6 percent in January-September to 706 million U.S. dollars from the same period last year, according to the Trade and Industry Ministry.

South Korea also bought 20.92 million dollars of forestry products in the period, up 88.5 percent, officials at the ministry said.

Purchases of corn, shifted from the United States, were counted at 304.42 million dollars, up 353 percent, peanuts at 15.67 million dollars, up 308.9 percent, and alcoholic beverages at 3.93 million dollars, up 258.3 percent.

China exported 1.96 million dollars of ginkgo nuts, bamboo shoots and dried fruit, up 220 percent, they said.

Chinese Firm Applies To Open Seoul Office

SK2511064791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0445 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 25 (YONHAP)—China's largest trading firm specialized in petrochemical products plans to open a branch office in Seoul soon, signaling increased trade between the two countries, industry sources said Monday.

The sources said the Chinese firm, commonly known as Sinochem, has submitted an application for the branch office to the Bank of Korea and the Korea Trade Promotion Corp.

The Chinese company is already preparing to set up the office by sending an executive and two other officials to Seoul in September, the sources said.

Sinochem, with annual sales totaling 12.8 billion U.S. dollars last year, sold crude oil and other petroleum raw products worth 130 million dollars to South Korea and imported 60 million dollars worth of petrochemical products from Korea last year.

Trade between South Korea and China is expected to increase considerably when the two countries sign a trade agreement in the near future, the source said.

$125 Million Loaned to Ten Developing Countries

SK2211114091 Seoul YONHAP in English 1120 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 22 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea's loans to developing nations tallied so far at 125 million U.S. dollars to 10 countries, according to the Finance Ministry Friday.

The ministry's report to the National Assembly Budget Committee said the biggest loan was made to Indonesia at 38.5 million dollars, followed by 14.5 million dollars to Sri Lanka, 13 million dollars to Ghana, 10 million dollars to Nigeria and Jordan, and 9.8 million dollars to Peru.

The loans were extended by the Export-Import Bank of Korea through the Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF).

South Korea plans to lend another 114.8 million dollars to nine countries, the report said.

North Said To Have New Nuclear Research Reactor

SK2511130591 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 25 Nov 91 p 1

[Text] In addition to Yongbyon, North Korea has installed a 50-megawatt nuclear research reactor in Sinpo, South Hamgyong Province, and is operating it. On 25 November, a source well informed on North Korea revealed that North Korea is building a large tunnel around the nuclear research centers in Yongbyon and Sinpo.

Sinpo is an important military area where the North Korean submarine base is located. The fact that North Korea was installing a nuclear research reactor in Sinpo was already known. However, this is the first time that a nuclear research reactor is known to be operating.

The source revealed that the nuclear research reactor in Sinpo has been confirmed as made in Germany.

The Soviet Union was originally expected to provide North Korea with a nuclear research reactor. According to the North Korean- Soviet construction treaty signed in 1985, the Soviets finished surveying conditions of the location and began to help North Korea with construction. When the CPSU was crushed, Soviet relations with North Korea cooled and Soviet aid has been suspended.

In particular, the source analyzed that a large tunnel around the nuclear research centers of Yongbyon and Sinpo seems to hide major equipment, including nuclear materials, and to be part of preparations against an external attack.

Meanwhile, a high-ranking government official said that the two nuclear reactors in North Korea can produce three to five small nuclear bombs every year beginning in 1993. He also predicted that a nuclear reprocessing plant, a plant for processing nuclear materials, and a bomb test area will be completed in 1994 or 1995.

The high-ranking official predicted that the development of nuclear weapons in the closed society of North Korea could be more rapid than our analysis shows, considering that the United Nation's nuclear inspection of Iraq revealed a higher level of Iraqi nuclear development than the West had judged.

South, North Hold Contact; Differences Cited

SK2611122991 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 1000 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] A contact of the working delegates of the North-South high-level talks was held today. The two sides continued negotiations on the key clauses of the North-South agreement but failed to narrow differences and concluded the four rounds of working contacts today.

At the fourth round of the contacts between the working delegates of the North-South high-level talks held at the House of Peace in our side area of Panmunjom, the two sides negotiated on the key clauses of the agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression, exchanges, and cooperation between the North and the South, namely, the conversion from the state of armistice to the state of peace, the establishment of permanent liaison offices, and the systematic device for guaranteeing nonaggression. The two sides, however, failed to reach agreement.

Therefore, the two sides concluded the working delegates' contact today and agreed to continue discussing these controversial points at the fifth round of the North-South high-level talks to be held in Seoul on 10 December.

Through the four rounds of contact between the working delegates, the two sides narrowed their differences in the areas of a preamble and reconciliation, such as recognizing each other's system, noninterference in internal affairs, cessation of name-calling, cessation of subversive activities. However, the North Korean side adhered to its previous position on converting the state of armistice into a state of peace and on establishing permanent liaison offices, thereby failing to make progress.

As for the systematic device for guaranteeing nonaggression, the two sides' assertions conflicted. The South side maintained that a specific implementing clause should be provided so as to realize phased disarmament after the political and military confidence building has occurred. In contrast, the North side unreasonably maintained that the confidence building and disarmament should occur at the same time.

In particular, our side presented a clause calling in the first place for eliminating weapons of mass destruction, such as nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, and for ending a surprise attack capability. However, the North Korean side opposed the specific implementation clause, maintaining the position that this should be stipulated in a symbolic phrase.

As for exchanges and cooperation, our side did not include travel, communication, and trade, terms which the North Korean side opposed. However, the North Korean side maintained that the clauses concerning the mutual opening of television, radio, and newspapers and the establishment of a travel, communication, and trade committee should not be included, thus making it impossible to reach agreement.

South Side Makes Concession

SK2611040591 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0300 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] At the fourth contact between the delegations of the South and North to the high-level talks held this morning in the House of Peace located in the area of the South side at Panmunjom, the South and North discussed the substance and the drafting of an agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression, exchanges, and cooperation between the two sides.

In today's contact held in camera, our side is reported to have put forward its position that such major points of contention as the establishment of permanent liaison missions and the replacement of the armistice regime with a peace regime, which the North side has refused to include in the agreement, can be handled in subcommittees to be established after the agreement is reached.

Our side's stand as such is not only a departure from its earlier stand that the agreement should contain substantial, practical provisions, but also an act of reflecting the North side's insistence in a forward-looking manner.

As to how the South and North will compromise over this remains to be seen.

North Offer To Sign Accord Called 'Meaningless'

SK2611052891 Seoul YONHAP in English 0511 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 26 (OANA-YONHAP)—A North Korean offer to sign a nuclear safeguards accord when the United States began removing its nuclear weapons from South Korea was meaningless as the withdrawal would be secret, the government said Tuesday.

An inter-ministerial meeting on the North Korean Foreign Ministry's statement Monday had found nothing new in it and Seoul still demanded that North Korea sign a nuclear safeguards accord without conditions, officials said.

The Foreign Ministry would issue an official response on Wednesday, they said.

North Korea said it would sign a safeguards accord when a U.S. nuclear withdrawal began and proposed separate talks with the United States and South Korea on simultaneous nuclear inspections of the two Koreas and making the Korean peninsula a nuclear-free zone.

The only new thing was the offer to sign a safeguards accord when the U.S. nuclear pullout begins, an official said.

"We do not feel the need to notify anyone of the withdrawal as demanded by North Korea," he said.

North Korea signed the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in 1985 but delayed the obligatory signing of a safeguards accord within 18 months.

"Our position is clear. North Korea's signing of the accord is an obligation and cannot be linked to any conditions," he said.

"The United States has a policy of neither confirming nor denying the deployment of nuclear arsenal overseas, and therefore we cannot allow open declaration on U.S. withdrawal activities," he said.

Seoul intends to announce the absence of nuclear weapons in the South at "an appropriate time," which would be on completion of the withdrawal.

Minister Says Inspections Limited to North, South

SK2611012191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0056 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 26 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea could consider simultaneous inspection of all military installations and nuclear facilities in South and North Korea if North Korea signed a Nuclear Safeguards Accord, Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku said Monday.

As simultaneous inspection was between South and North Korea for confidence-building purposes, this would not include nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea by the United States, according to Yi's testimony before a National Assembly committee.

"By international law, weapons owned by nuclear countries cannot be subject to inspections, and therefore demands for such on the nuclear weapons that North Korea claims the United States has deployed here are wrong," the defense minister said. Seoul and Washington refuse to confirm or deny the existence of nuclear weapons in South Korea, but it is generally accepted that the U.S. forces in Korea have them in their arsenal.

"Simultaneous inspection could be considered in connection with inter-Korean confidence building," he said.

The defense chief denied that South Korea might use forcible means to halt North Korea's nuclear development program or that Seoul and Washington had discussed this possibility.

"There are opinions that forcible measures including military actions are necessary to stop North Korea from developing nuclear weapons, but the government is firm that such actions could never be allowed if they would lead to the outbreak of war on the Korean peninsula," Yi said.

On the possibility of disbanding the military reserve force, Yi said there was still a military confrontation between South and North Korea and disbandment would only widen the gap in military capability.

North, South Women Meet at Seoul Seminar

North Delegation Arrives

SK2511062691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0603 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 25 (OANA-YONHAP)—Fifteen North Korean women crossed the border in the truce village of Panmunjom Monday to attend a seminar in Seoul with South Korean and Japanese women.

They entered the South at 11 a.m. and arrived at a hotel in northern Seoul, venue of the seminar, a few hours later. They will stay in the hotel until Saturday.

Yi Hyo-chae, president of the Korean women united, and four others greeted the visitors at Panmunjom with flowers and hugs. Awaiting them at the hotel was Yi U-cheong, a member of the opposition Democratic Party's Executive Council.

Among the North Koreans are Yo Yon-ku, vice chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly Standing Committee, Chong Myong-sun, counselor at the Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of Fatherland, and three other delegates, four "observers" and six journalists.

Yo headed immediately to her father's grave to pay respects to him and there met her cousin, Yo Myong-ku, her closest living relative in South Korea, for the first time in 45 years.

This is the first seminar in South Korea with attendants from both Koreas since national division in 1945. The two sides agreed at a seminar in Tokyo in may to hold the seminar regularly, with Seoul and Pyongyang alternating as host city.

If all goes well, the Pyongyang seminar will be next May.

Discussions are set for Tuesday and Wednesday on peace in Asia and women's role. The North Koreans will spend Thursday and Friday visiting museums and meeting women leaders here before recrossing the border Saturday.

North Delegate Profiled

SK2611013091 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 26 Nov 91 p 3

[Text] Yo Yon-ku, who heads the North Korean delegation to the first inter-Korean contact of women, enjoys the highest post held by a woman in the northern half of the Korean Peninsula.

Born in Seoul in 1925 to Yo Un-hyong, an independence fighter, she attended Paehwa Girls' High School. She dropped out of Ewha Womens University after one year and went to North Korea in July, 1946.

The tall and elegant lady armed with a (refined) Western manner and good command of foreign languages has been known as Pyongyang's mouthpiece in international society.

She stayed at the house of North Korean leader Kim Il-song for a while soon after her defection to the North, and continued her study at a college in Moscow through Kim's office.

She joined the Democratic Frontline for the Peace and Unification of Motherland in 1981 and now heads the organization. She has held a number of important offices within the North Korean Communist Party hierarchy and has contributed to promoting a mild image of North Korea in the outside world through her frequent tours of the Eastern Bloc nations in the capacity as Kim's special envoy.

The 66-year-old North Korean big shot, concurrently vice- president of a struggling committee for the release of Yim Su-kyong, welcomed Rev. Mun Ik-hwan during his unlawful visit to Pyongyang in 1989.

A large number of alumni of Ewha Womens University, playing leading roles in various social strata, are expecting to get a chance to meet their old friend from the North after some 45 years of separation.

Her cousin and other relatives are also living in Seoul.

North Accused of Politicking

SK2511142491 Seoul YONHAP in English 1249 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 25 (YONHAP)—Choe Pyong-po, spokesman for the National Unification Board [NUB] on Monday accused North Korean delegates to the Seoul women's seminar of trying to "challenge" the legal order in the South by talking of their intention to visit such imprisoned figures as the Rev. Mun Ik-whan, a university coed Yim Su-kyong and their families.

Choi said that North Korean delegation's talks of consolatory visits to Mun and Yim were apparently an act of challenging the legal order in South Korea in that both had been jailed for their violations of the relevant laws. The two were put to prison after visiting North Korea without official permission.

"It is regrettable that the North Korean delegation is trying to use their Seoul visit for some impure aims," Choe said.

The spokesman said, "The government hopes that the Seoul seminar will go on smoothly as a purely academic forum centering on women's problem."

He urged the North's delegation to stop making political remarks and instead play a role in expanding inter-Korean exchanges by complying with the rules and regulations agreed between the two sides for this occasion.

Seminar Opens

SK2511133891 Seoul YONHAP in English 1219 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Seoul, Nov. 25 (OANA-YONHAP)—The Seoul women's seminar on "The Peace of Asia and Women's Role" opened Monday at Ramada Olympia Hotel downtown Seoul where South and North Korean woman leaders met each other for the first time since the national division in 1945.

The seminar, held under the slogans of "Women conceiving unification" and "Women cultivating peace," was participated in by some 300 women leaders from South and North Korea and Japan.

Opening remarks by Yun Chong-ok were followed by a seminar progress report by chief organizer Yi Yo-chae and a congratulatory speech by Yi Wu-chong, a member of the opposition Democratic Party's executive council.

Representing North Korea in the meeting were Yo Yon-ku, vice chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly Standing Committee, Chong Myong-sun, counselor at the Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of Fatherland, and three others.

Muziko Miki, wife of former Prime Minister Takeo Miki, Sumiko Shimizu, a member of the House of Councilors, and Mine Watanabe, senior executive member of YMCA were on the Japanese side. [passage omitted]

The seminar will continue through Saturday to discuss a wide range of subjects regarding women's role in expediting peace in the Asian region.

All participants are scheduled to visit the South Korean National Assembly, Namdaemun market and other tourist attractions near Seoul during the seminar.

Government Approves Contact With North Teachers

SK2211091891 Seoul YONHAP in English 0858 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 22 (YONHAP)—The government gave the South Korean Federation of Teachers' Organizations approval Friday to contact North Koreans to promote exchanges and cooperation with a North Korean teachers' organization.

The federation, headed by Hyon Song-chong, will contact the Korean Trade Union of Educational and Cultural Workers, led by Choe Kum-son, to discuss ways of opening exchanges between the two organizations, officials said.

The federation will first pursue exchanges of educational materials and information with the trade union rather than seeking full-fledged exchanges, and will lay the groundwork for personnel exchanges in the future.

It also plans to establish joint education facilities with the North Korean organization, exchange teachers and students, and co- sponsor educational, academic and athletic events.

Trade Deficit Nears $12 Billion Mark

SK2311060091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0417 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 23 (YONHAP)—South Korea's trade deficit reached 11.87 billion U.S. dollars on a customs clearance basis Thursday despite an improvement in trade figures, according to the Trade and Industry Ministry.

The nation had a shortfall of 1.81 billion dollars for the first 21 days of November on exports of 3.42 billion dollars, up 9 percent from the same period last year, and imports of 5.23 billion dollars, down 2.3 percent.

The deficit was attributed to weakened price competitiveness and delays in shipments caused by the expectation of further depreciation of the Korean won against the U.S. dollar.

Current account deficit is projected to surpass 10 billion dollars by the end of the year, Korea's biggest deficit ever. The deficit was 8.46 billion dollars between January and September.

Burma

Commission Revokes Status of Three NLD Members

BK2511150291 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Announcement No. 978 of the Multiparty Democratic General Elections Commission of the Union of Myanmar [Burma], issued on 25 November]

[Text] Subject: Nullification of the status as People's Assembly representatives of three persons who infringed Subsection Nya, Section 11 of the People's Assembly Election Law.

1. The following people elected as People's Assembly representatives for the National League for Democracy [NLD] during the multiparty democratic general election on 27 May 1990 have been found to be guilty of the offenses listed below:

A. U Saw Victor Clyde, EL000307, Thandaung Township Constituency-2, Karen State—Subsection Nya, Section 5 of the 1950 Emergency Act.

B. U Mahn Myaing Aye, 10/MaLaMa-Naing0258821, Kawkareik Township Constituency-1, Karen State—Subsection Nya, Section 5 of the 1950 Emergency Act.

C. Daw San May, 12/PaMaNya-Naing012608, Taikkyi Township Constituency-2, Yangon [Rangoon] Division—Criminal Code 193, Part 2.

2. Hence, in accordance with Subsection Nya, Section 11 of the People's Assembly Election Law, these persons no longer have the right to continue to be People's Assembly representatives and their status as elected representatives have been nullified.

3. It is also hereby announced that in accordance with Subsection B, Section 80 of the People's Assembly Election Law, the three persons mentioned above shall no longer have the right to run in the forthcoming elections with effect from today.

By the authority vested in me.

Signed: Aye Maung, secretary, Election Commission.

Ministry Issues List of 'Unscrupulous' Traders

BK2411091191 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Text] The Ministry of Trade issued a press release on 13 November 1991 announcing that action has been taken against several economic enterprises and individuals who have been involved in unscrupulous economic practices by taking advantage of the market economy that the Union of Myanmar [Burma] has been practising.

The Companies Registration Office under the Ministry of Trade has suspended the work of the following company limited and has informed them that it be legally dissolved: The Master World Trade Company Limited of No. 13, Thitsa Street, Yankin Township, Yangon [Rangoon]; company registration No. 179/1990-91.

The registration of the following companies as business enterprises and as import/export licensees has been revoked with effect from the date of this press release:

Master World Trade Company Limited of No. 13, Thitsa Street, Yankin Township, Yangon [Rangoon]—SaSa/0496 HtaHta/1209;
U Aung Sein Tun, alias Ong Chein Ho—LTA005413, Parami Import Export Company of No. 183, Anawrahta Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon—SaSa/0241 KaKa/0138 HtaKa/0445;
Daw Dobi Lane, alias Daw Win Win Tin—LTA004919, Win Win Tin Enterprise of No. 148, Theinbyu Street, Botataung Township, Yangon—ThaHta/0121 HtaKa/0459;
U Han Khin, BDHG005754, Khine Overseas Trading of No. 297, Maha Bandoola Street, Botataung Township, Yangon—SaZa/0238 ThaKa/0660 HtaKa/1478;
Daw Than Than Myint, alias Daw Kyin Hwa, BTHG007733 Pyi Gyaw Trading of No. 197, Maha Bandoola Garden Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon—ThaKa/0383 ThaKa/0486 HtaKa/0771.

The following individuals, who have been known to have been involved in unscrupulous economic practices by taking advantage of the market economy of the Union of Myanmar [Burma], have been blacklisted as traders not worthy of conducting business with:

U Thein Zaw, LTA014830, No. 13, Thitsa Street, Yankin Township, Yangon;
U Aung Sein Tun, LTA005413, No. 183 Anawrahta Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon;
U Aung Sein Lin, No. 12/LaPaLa-1-000284 of No. 18, Latha Street, Latha Township, Yangon;
Daw Dobi Lane, alias Daw Win Win Tin, LTA004919, of No. 148, Theinbyu Street, Botataung Township, Yangon;
Daw Than Than Myint, alias Daw Kyin Hwa, BTHG007733, of No. 197, Maha Bandoola Garden Street, Kyauktada Township Yangon;
Daw Aye Myint, 12/LaMaTa-9-006071 of No. 178, Kyongyi Street, Lanmadaw Township, Yangon;
Daw Mi Mi Soe, NRGN002924 of 183, Anawrahta Street, Yangon;
U Tin Aung, CC042044 of No. 80/82, 32d Street, Pabedan Street, Yangon;
U Mya Tun, PZDG003888 of No. 115, 49th Street, Pazundaung Township, Yangon;
U Cho Aye, LMDW005330 of No. 185, 15th Street, Lanmadaw Township, Yangon;
U Htwa Jan In, CA024044 of No. 18, Latha Street, Latha Township, Yangon;
U Aung Toe, CA067102 of No. 225, Anawrahta Street, Pabedan Township, Yangon;
Daw Than Than Aye, BTHG001594 of No. 85-87, Room 6, Botataung Township, Yangon;

U Han Khin, BTHD005754 of No. 297, Maha Bandoola Street, Botataung Township, Yangon;
Aung Thurein Showroom of No. 63, Konzaydan Street, Yangon;
Eversmile Store of No. 183, Anawrahta Street, Yangon.

Cambodia

French Foreign Minister Dumas Ends Visit

Meets With Sihanouk

BK2511024891 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 24 Nov 91

[Text] At noon on 23 November at the Khemarin Palace, His Excellency Roland Dumas, foreign minister of the French Republic, paid a courtesy call on Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodia's head of state, father of the Cambodian nation, and chairman of the Supreme National Council, in order to present to the samdech a letter from His Excellency Francois Mitterrand, president of the French Republic.

On this occasion, Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk expressed his thanks to the French president for providing all-round facilities to help seek a solution to the Cambodian problem and gave special thanks to His Excellency Roland Dumas, who in cooperation with all Cambodian factions had made every effort to build peace in Cambodia.

His Excellency Roland Dumas also expressed his great pleasure that Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk has invited him for an official visit to Cambodia and to attend the ceremony to inaugurate the Napoleon III Pavalion in the palace.

Departs Phnom Penh 24 Nov

BK2511062391 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0429 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Phnom Penh 25 Nov (SPK)—French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas left Phnom Penh on Sunday, 24 November, after paying a three-day official visit to Cambodia.

Mr. Roland Dumas, his wife, and his entourage were sent off by Mr. Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia, and other high-ranking officials.

During his stay in Cambodia, the French minister was received by Prince Norodom Sihanouk. He held talks with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen on relations of all-round cooperation between the two countries. He attended the inauguration of the Napoleon III pavilion in the compound of the Royal Palace which was restored with French assistance.

Mr. Roland Dumas gave a news conference on the assistance of France and the international community to Cambodia's development.

He also watched the first meeting of the Cambodian Supreme National Council in Phnom Penh since Prince Sihanouk's return to the country.

He spent the last day of his stay in Cambodia making a trip to the group of Angkor Wat temples of which the restoration was partly handled by France. He also visited the Royal Palace, the National Museum, the former Embassy of France, the French Cultural Center in Phnom Penh, the "Calmette" and "Cambodia-USSR Friendship" Hospitals, and the Tuol Sleng Museum of Genocide.

Hor Namhong Congratulates USSR's Shevardnadze

BK2211101891 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0836 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Phnom Penh Nov. 22—Foreign Minister Hor Namhong has congratulated Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze on his reappointment as foreign minister of the Soviet Union .

In his congratulatory message, Hor Namhong said: "I am very glad to learn of your return to the post of foreign minister of the Soviet Union .

"Under your leadership, the external policy of the Soviet Union has brought about real international detente and peaceful coexistence to the world.

"Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to express my profound gratitude for your past personal efforts in the peace process of Cambodia."

Japan's Obuchi Arrives in Phnom Penh 25 Nov

OW2511022891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0203 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Phnom Penh, Nov. 25 KYODO—A special envoy from Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) arrived Monday for talks with Cambodian leaders on aid to reconstruct the war-ravaged country.

"We'd like to offer as much help as possible for Cambodia's rehabilitation," said Keizo Obuchi, former LDP Secretary General, when he flew in from Bangkok.

Obuchi is scheduled to confer later in the day with Chea Sim, president of the ruling Cambodian People's Party.

He will also meet Tuesday with Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of the Supreme National Council (SNC), an interim body representing both the Phnom Penh Government and three rebel groups opposing the Vietnam-installed regime.

He will fly to Vietnam following the meeting with the former Cambodian Monarch before returning to Tokyo on Sunday.

Meets With Chea Sim 25 Nov

BK2611145991 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1124 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Phnom Penh 26 Nov (SPK)—On Monday afternoon in Phnom Penh, Chea Sim, chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee, received a delegation from the Japanese Government led by Mr. Keizo Obuchi, special representative of the Japanese Prime Minister Miyazawa, who came to Cambodia to get information on the situation in the country.

After briefing his guest on the all-round development achieved by the CPP Central Committee and the Cambodian Government and people during the past 13 years, Mr. Chea Sim, also chairman of the National Assembly and the National Council of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense, praised the return to Cambodia of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Princess Monique, and their family.

Mr. Chea Sim cited the official declaration of the CPP recognizing Prince Norodom Sihanouk as Cambodia's legitimate and rightful head of state, the way he was before the 18 March 1970 coup d'etat, and talked about the alliance between the CPP and FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia]. He also recalled the political platform of the CPP, particularly its open policy on foreign investment in Cambodia.

Mr. Chea Sim thanked the Japanese Government for its plan to assist in the restoration of the "Chruoy Changva" bridge, built by the Japanese and destroyed during the war.

For his part, Mr. Keizo Obuchi appreciated the gains of the Cambodian people under the leadership of the CPP and the Cambodian Government, and expressed his joy at the warm welcome accorded by the CPP and the Cambodian Government and people to Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

Mr. Keizo Obuchi pledged to consider the aid proposed [words indistinct].

Mr. Yukio Imagawa, Japanese ambassador to the SNC, was also present.

Meets With Sihanouk 26 Nov

BK2611124691 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1110 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK November 26—Prince Norodom Sihanouk said in Phnom Penh Tuesday Japan has made historical contributions to the peace settlement of Cambodian problem which was signed in Paris on October 23.

In a meeting with a special envoy of the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Keizo Obuchi, Prince Norodom Sihanouk said: "We, Cambodians, would like to express thanks to the great people of Japan, the Japanese Government and Diet, who have tried their best to rehabilitate an independent, peaceful and united Cambodia".

The prince, who resigned his position as president of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea and head of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] in August, welcomed the Japanese companies which intended to cooperate with Cambodia in economic development in the country.

The prince also thanked Japan for its promise to rebuild the Cambodia-Japan friendship bridge which he said would facilitate the transport of freight and passengers especially tourists, to various provinces.

The 700-meter-long bridge was built in 1965 by the Fuji Construction Co. and the Tomen Co. and was blown down by the Khmer Rouge in the early 1970's.

Prince Sihanouk, who met for a second time with a Japanese group since he returned here on November 14 wished the Cambodia-Japan friendship everlasting.

Hun Sen Urges More Thai Investment in Country

BK2211024391 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 22 Nov 91 p 6

[Text] Phnom Penh—Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen called for more investment from Thailand in the fields of manufacturing, transport, food processing, and power generation, Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin said yesterday.

Mr Asa said the call was made during his meeting with Mr Hun Sen on the second day of his three-day official visit to Cambodia.

"Mr Hun Sen would like to see more Thai investment. We have discussed possibities in the fields of manufacturing, tranpsort, electricity, and food processing. As for the areas of priorities, we would very much like the Thai private sector to invest," he said.

The minister said a survey mission would be despatched to Cambodia soon to study the possibilities and priorities in the reconstruction of Cambodia and what Thailand could do to help.

He said there were some 20 possible areas Cambodia might be interested in—agriculture, hotel business, among others.

During the meeting, Mr Hun Sen also reportedly asked the Thai delegation how to determine the credentials of Thai companies seeking to do business with Cambodia, a senior official said.

Tie Banh Receives UNAMIC Representatives

BK1611075591 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] On the afternoon of 12 November at the Defense Ministry's Foreign Relations Department, His Excellency General Tie Banh, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, Defense minister of the State of Cambodia, and member of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, received in audience the representatives of the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia [UNAMIC], namely Indonesian Colonel Tery Tigory, deputy chief of the UNAMIC, and Australian Lieutenant Colonel Russel Stuart who came to Cambodia on 9 November.

The UNAMIC is split into a civilian team and a military team. It has a total of 268 personnel who will come to Cambodia one after another from 28 countries to monitor the cease-fire implementation, set up a preliminary plan to clear mines, survey other matters related to the peace process in Cambodia, and make preparations for the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia.

His Excellency Tie Banh answered a number of questions raised by the UNAMIC representatives, who wanted to know about Cambodia's military and geographical situation for the performance of their six-month tasks in the country, pointing out that now our people and armed forces always want peace and security. Our only goodwill is to strive to achieve peace for the people and motherland. So far, the signed Paris accord on Cambodia has already been adhered to in a legal and decisive manner, and the State of Cambodia faction is at all times ready to stictly implement the accord, especially to effectively cooperate with international organizations operating in Cambodia.

UNHCR Official Cited on Repatriation Plan

BK2611020091 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] The United Nations [UN] is considering the repatriation of Cambodian refugees to Cambodia and mine-clearing work. Mr. Jamshid Anvar, representative of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR], has said that the UN is considering the repatriation of Cambodian refugees to Cambodia in the near future and the removal of land mines so as to ensure their safety.

Mr. Anvar said that there are two problems to be resolved by the UNHCR: first, the UN needs a long period of time to remove mines; second, the 350,000 Cambodian refugees in Thailand want to quickly return home so as to get land for planting crops and earning their living.

Recently, the Royal Government of Thailand, the Supreme National Council [SNC] headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, and the UNHCR signed a memorandum on repatriation of Cambodian refugees to Cambodia in order to take part in the general election to be held under UN supervision at the beginning of 1993.

Mr. Anvar added that the UN is seeking a location in Cambodia for use as a safe haven for the refugees.

Australian UN Unit Leaves for Battambang

BK2611074991 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Reports from Phnom Penh say that Australian troops of UNAMIC [UN Advance Mission in Cambodia] left Phnom Penh for Battambang town to set up radio communications links between UN peacekeeping forces and troops of the Cambodian parties under the Paris peace agreement signed last month.

An Australian military official says that a three-member Australian unit accompanied by a military officer from New Zealand, and a doctor left Pochentong airport by a French military aircraft for Battambang town. This Australian peacekeeping unit is part of a 268-strong UNAMIC force which arrived in Phnom Penh this month in accordance with the peace agreement signed in Paris on 23 October by the Phnom Penh side and the tripartite Cambodian resistance, which has been fighting to topple the Phnom Penh regime.

This Australian military official says that Australian troops are expected to be deployed at the headquarters of all three Cambodian resistance groups within a week. The military communications unit to be set up in the zone controlled by the Phnom Penh side will be located at Battambang town airport of the regime led by Communists in Phnom Penh. The Australian military official also says that another military communications unit will be dispatched to the military headquarters of the Phnom Penh side in Siem Reap Province within the next few days. These Australian troops will be rotated every 21 days.

At the same time, a reliable source says that Khieu Samphan, member of the Cambodian Supreme National Council, is due to arrive in Phnom Penh on Wednesday, tomorrow.

Sihanouk Visits Phnom Penh Children's Hospital

BK2411111191 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 24 Nov 91

[Editorial report] Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian at 0430 GMT on 24 November carries a 60-minute report with portions recorded on a visit made by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, "Cambodia's head of state, father of the Cambodian nation, and chairman of the Cambodian Supreme National Council" [SNC] to the National Children's Hospital in Phnom Penh on the morning of 24 November."

The announcer says Sihanouk is accompanied by his "wife, His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim, chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee and chairman of both the National Assembly and the National Council of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense, and his wife." He adds that Sihanouk took along "83 cases of biscuits, 200 scarves, 200 sarong [lower garment for men and women], 200 kilograms of refined sugar, and four million riel."

Upon his arrival, Sihanouk is greeted by "Sim Ka, member of the standing committee of the CPP Central Committee and chairman of the Phnom Penh City party committee; Yim Chhaili, member of the CPP Central Committee and health minister; and a multitude of doctors, nurses, and people."

After Sihanouk's tour of the hospital's laboratory and wards, (Seua I-leng), director of the national children hospital, spoke for 10 minutes. He welcomed and briefed the delegation on the hospital's history and development, mentioning the "assistance of World Vision International."

In his 30-minute recorded address, Sihanouk sincerely thanks "H.E. Chea Sim and his wife for kindly accompanying" him and his wife "to visit this great accomplishment, which is the achievement of the People's Party [short for CPP] and our State of Cambodia's Government with the assistance of the international community, particularly humanitarian organizations and countries which are the real friends of our Cambodian people and nation." Sihanouk also thanks foreign organizations personnel for their efforts in assisting Cambodia.

Sihanouk then recalls his homecoming trip and activities since his arrival on 14 November aimed at rebuilding the country. He praises the efforts of the CPP and State of Cambodia's Government to rebuild Cambodia "from bare hands" since 1979. He recalls, to the applause of the audience, Chea Sim's request to be "Norodom Sihanouk's son" saying he is "very, very glad" to have such "an outstanding son and a lofty nationalist."

He highly praises the efforts of the hospital's medical staff for taking great care of the children, recalling the fate of some of his offspring. Sihanouk again thanked international humanitarian organizations and foreign workers for their assistance and efforts. In his pledge to secure more aid for Cambodia, Sihanouk cites his own appeal and efforts, mentioning "France's pledge to provide maximum assistance."

Sihanouk ends his speech with a long list of donations to the hospital, some of which are "common gifts of the samdech euv and the CPP and the State of Cambodia's Government."

Sihanouk Denies Government-Rebel Alliance Role

BK2611140591 Hong Kong AFP in English 1307 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Bangkok, Nov 26 (AFP)—Prince Norodom Sihanouk denied responsibility on Tuesday for an alliance concluded between the Phnom Penh Government leadership and a guerrilla group headed by his son.

In a statement circulated by his office here, the prince, who recently returned to Phnom Penh after 13 years in exile, said: "I solemnly declare that at no time have I manoeuvred" to bring about the alliance between Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen and Prince Norodom Ranariddh.

Prince Ranariddh is the leader of one of two non-communist factions in a Khmer Rouge-dominated guerrilla alliance, which last month concluded a peace treaty with Phnom Penh to end the civil war in Cambodia.

He returned with Prince Sihanouk to the Cambodian capital earlier this month.

(Prince Ranariddh will soon be made deputy prime minister of Cambodia, Hun Sen told a special envoy from Tokyo in Phnom Penh.

(Other members of Ranariddh's faction, FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia], will join the Phnom Penh administration, he said).

Prince Sihanouk, who has become the neutral chairman of the Supreme National Council (SNC)—an interim body grouping all the warring factions— reiterated earlier statements that he wanted to be a "bridge" between Cambodia's rival groups.

"I cannot work towards national reconciliation if I don't continue to play straightforwardly my conciliatory role and serve as a bridge between all factions and political parties," he said.

Ranariddh To Join Government as Deputy Premier

OW2611100491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0944 GMT 26 Nov 91

[By Masanori Kikuta]

[Excerpts] Phnom Penh, Nov. 26 KYODO—The head of a faction loyal to former Cambodian monarch Prince Norodom Sihanouk will join the Phnom Penh Government as deputy prime minister, a top Phnom Penh leader was quoted as saying Tuesday.

Prime Minister Hun Sen of the Vietnamese-installed government told a visiting envoy from Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) that Prince Norodom Ranariddh will assume the post as an additional cabinet member.

Hun Sen also said some other members of the Sihanouk faction, a former foe of the Phnom Penh government, have been asked to serve as vice ministers, former LDP Secretary General Keizo Obuchi told reporters.

Obuchi, who arrived Monday on his way to Vietnam, also met Sihanouk, president of the Supreme National Council (SNC), an interim reconciliation body representing all four rival factions, following the 45-minute meeting with Hun Sen.

Sihanouk confirmed an agreement between his faction and Phnom Penh to form a coalition government within a week, the envoy said.

Obuchi quoted Phnom Penh's foreign minister, Hor Namhong, as saying during their meeting Monday night that the SNC will hold its first formal meeting of all 12 members plus Sihanouk, its neutral chairman, on December 4.

The SNC met informally Saturday, with 10 of the members and Sihanouk present, at its headquarters to be officially opened at the first full session.

Hor Namhong also said Khieu Samphan, head of the radical Communist Khmer Rouge rebel group, will arrive Wednesday to join 11 other members who are already in Phnom Penh, Obuchi said.

The envoy quoted Hun Sen as saying citizens plan to stage "large- scale" anti-Khmer Rouge demonstrations Wednesday or Thursday, apparently timed with Khieu Samphan's arrival. [passage omitted]

Obuchi told Sihanouk Japan is ready to help rebuild a key Phnom Penh bridge left destroyed by the Khmer Rouge.

The "Japan Bridge," the only one linking the capital and Cambodia's northern province across the Tonle Sap River, was built in the 1960s with Japan's official assistance.

"We'd like to do our best to rebuild the bridge," Obuchi said he told Sihanouk, calling it a symbol of bilateral cooperation.

Outlines Election Strategy

BK1911031191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 19 Nov 91 p A5

[Text] Phnom Penh—Prince Norodom Ranariddh will soon call a meeting here of his FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] party's members and supporters to finalize its policy for the forthcoming UN-organized general election.

Ranariddh, who has replaced his father Prince Norodom Sihanouk as head of FUNCINPEC, also plans to visit some of Cambodia's 19 provinces in an effort to win popular support.

These plans follow the announcement last week by both Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen of the "de facto understanding and cooperation" between the Cambodian People's Party in Phnom Penh and FUNCINPEC.

FUNCINPEC was one of the tripartite resistance factions which fought for 13 years against the Phnom Penh govenrment established in 1979 by Vietnam.

A FUNCINPEC official and aide to Ranariddh said a meeting of FUNCINPEC's local and overseas leaders and supporters would soon be held in Phnom Penh to work out details of the party's policy.

"The meeting will discuss in detail the (party's) plan to deal with the coming elections and will scrutinize each aspect of our party policy," said the official who asked not to be named.

He did not give the exact date or place of the meeting. He said about 100 party members were expected to attend the meeting, which would be chaired by Ranariddh and Neak Tulong, a former minister in Sihanouk's previous government.

It is not known if the meeting will be held before or after the first meeting here of the Supreme National Council (SNC), which unites delegates of the four warring Cambodian factions. The SNC agreed to move its headquarters to Phnom Penh and to have its first meeting when all the representatives are here.

The official said Ranariddh also plans to visit rural areas of various provinces in response to requests from local people.

Asked about the FUNCINPEC's political and economic policy, the official said the party has alreay formulated draft guidelines and policies which would be published after the meeting.

Generally, the party supported "free liberal democracy with a multi-party system, an open economy with free competition, and a foreign policy of promoting good ties with all countries," he said.

He said the name of FUNCINPEC would not be changed as it was the name given by Prince Norodom Sihanouk. "In fact, we (the FUNCINPEC) see ourselves already as a political party," he said.

The official, himself an overseas Cambodian, said FUNCINPEC has "potential massive support over there (inside Cambodia) and overseas". Cambodians overseas had said supporters were awaiting the green light from party leaders to return to Cambodia. "They will come to help us according to their personal expertise," he said.

The official, however, maintained that his party and the Cambodian People's Party of Phnom Penh were two separate political parties who shared the same policy. "We are an alliance but not a coalition. That means we will not attack one another," he said.

Hun Sen has officially confirmed the alliance between the two parties and Prince Sihanouk, who has assumed the neutral position of head of the Supreme National Council, gave his blessing to the arrangement, declaring last week that he was "not unhappy," with it.

Since the peace talks at Phatthaya the two parties have achieved a de facto udnerstanding to cooperate in the political campaign leading up to the general election, the FUNCINPEC official said.

"We will be the only two winners (in the election). They (the Khmer Rouge) will gain some votes but it wil not be the dominant party to form the government," he said.

The Khmer Rouge was able to topple the U.S.-backed Lon Nol government in 1975 because of Sihanouk. He said the people came to join the Khmer Rouge at that time because they thought they were fighting for the former monarch.

Thanks Chea Sim for 'Support'

BK2511124791 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1100 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] On 23 November Prince Ranariddh, general secretary of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] movement, sent a message of thanks to His Excellency Chea Sim, chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP]. The message reads:

Excellency: I have received your message dated 20 November 1991. I am extremely moved by the noble contents of the message full of hopes for the glorious future of our country.

It is certainly true that the CPP under your leadership has displayed unpretentiously genuine goodwill and the patriotic ideal in organizing the marvelous reception for our venerated Samdech Euv and the royal family, in that the CPP and the Government of the State of Cambodia [SOC] have voiced official recognition of Samdech Euv's title as the legal and legitimate chief of state of Cambodia until new elections, and in that the CPP through your message has once again stressed its readiness to sincerely implement the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement on Cambodia. All that constitutes the correct basis for achieving national reconciliation and for bringing genuine peace and independence and sovereignty to our motherland.

It is true that the alliance signed between our two parties on 20 November is not only an excellent symbol but also a correct stance leading toward genuine peace that has always been the aspiration of our two parties and all Cambodian compatriots since the beginning.

Excellency, your message has instructed SOC ministries and officials at all levels and the Cambodian nation as a whole to support the royal activities of the samdech euv in the service of national reconciliation and in defense of the supreme interests of the nation by regarding him as the royal father, as the samdech euv of both the Cambodian nation and the CPP under your leadership. The message has advised SOC ministries and officials at all levels to implement well the cooperation and alliance with the forces of the FUNCINPEC for the sake of peace and national reconstruction. All that constitutes one of the best gestures ever.

I take this opportunity to express in my own name and on behalf of FUNCINPEC our most profound gratitude to your excellency and to the CPP and the SOC Government, and to wish your excellency the chairman the best of health and success in all your undertakings.

Please accept my most profound esteem.

[Signed] Prince Norodom Ranariddh, General Secretary of FUNCINPEC

Defends Alliance With Phnom Penh

BK2611144991 Hong Kong AFP in English 0948 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Bangkok, Nov 26 (AFP)—The leader of Prince Norodom Sihanouk's guerrilla faction Tuesday defended an alliance with its former foe, the Phnom Penh Government, saying it would guarantee "genuine peace" in Cambodia and was not aimed against the Khmer Rouge or other Cambodian guerrillas.

The alliance's "main objective is to facilitate the implementation of the United Nations peace agreement rather than to oppose any faction," Prince Norodom Ranariddh, the son of Prince Norodom Sihanouk and the leader of a Sihanoukist guerrilla army, said in a statement here.

His statement came as the Khmer Rouge, in a radio broadcast monitored here, warned against unspecified attempts at "undermining the great national union" in Cambodia.

Prince Ranariddh's reference to the peace accord was apparently in response to remarks by Son Sann, another guerrilla leader, who said his alliance with Phnom Penh might be inconsistent with the treaty, signed last month to end Cambodia's 13-year war.

According to Cambodian sources, Prince Ranariddh, whose forces formed one of two non-communist guerrilla groups allied to the powerful Khmer Rouge against the Vietnam-installed Cambodian Government during the war, met here Monday with Khmer Rouge chief Khieu Samphan.

The sources refused to disclose further details of the meeting. [passage omitted]

The Khmer Rouge has yet to react to the announcement, but it said in a radio broadcast monitored here: "There are still many complications in our Cambodian people's struggle."

"The enemies, near and far, both open and secret, are still striving to undermine the great national union of the Cambodian people with the aim of usurping the interests of our Cambodian nation and people," the radio said.

(In Phnom Penh, Son Sann, the head of the other non-communist faction allied to the Khmer Rouge, called on Prince Sihanouk to refrain from taking sides.

(He said he would oppose the formation of the Phnom Penh- Sihanoukist coalition government if it was not in line with the U.N.-brokered peace treaty).

Prince Ranariddh, who left Phnom Penh on Sunday for talks here with military and civilian officials belonging to his faction, said in his statement "the new alliance in the political and in the military field ... is an important step forward for national reconciliation of Cambodia."

In a separate statement broadcast over Radio Phnom Penh, monitored here, Prince Ranariddh described his new alliance with Phnom Penh as "not only an excellent symbol but also a correct stance leading to genuine peace."

Aides to Prince Ranariddh said senior military commanders of Phnom Penh and the guerrilla faction had signed a military alliance to oversee Cambodia's ceasefire.

The military accord calls for free travel in each other's zones, they said.

Prince Ranariddh's troops control a small zone in northern Cambodia, south of the Thai border. They also operate along with the Khmer Rouge in central Cambodia.

Thailand's military meanwhile criticised the alliance. The Supreme Command spokesman said it "might affect peace in Cambodia."

"Any agreement passed from now on (by Cambodian factions) should be accepted by all," Lieutenant-General Pallop Chitarik added.

The Khmer Rouge and its allies have enjoyed strong support from Thailand's armed forces during their war against Phnom Penh.

Son Sann Pleads for Sihanouk's Neutrality

BK2611045691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0314 GMT 26 Nov 91

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] Phnom Penh, Nov 26 (AFP)—Son Sann, whose faction has been increasingly marginalized since its return to the Cambodian capital, has made a plea for Prince Norodom Sihanouk to keep from taking sides.

"I say to him, 'Please be neutral. You are the father of your country,'" the elderly faction chief said in an interview Monday.

Son Sann was prime minister of Cambodia under the U.S.-backed regime that ousted Prince Sihanouk in 1970. He heads the non- communist Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), which fought the Phnom Penh government in a recently ended 13-year civil war.

Prince Sihanouk used to lead the three-sided resistance, which included his own FUNCINPEC, the KPNLF and the Khmer Rouge.

The prince gave up his position in August in order to become the neutral head of the Supreme National Council (SNC), a body created by the United Nations under a peace plan ending the war.

Since Prince Sihanouk's return from exile on November 14, he has appeared to ally himself with the Phnom Penh government, despite his insistance that he remains neutral.

Sihanouk never stops heaping praise on the deeds of Prime Minister Hun Sen. He makes constant references to his "illegal, anti-constitutional" ouster in 1970 in a veiled attack on Son Sann.

The reason, according to Son Sann, is "because we are the weakest."

"But if we are really the weakest they would pay no attention to us," he said.

The prince announced Saturday that FUNCINPEC, now led by his son Prince Norodom Ranariddh, would join in a coalition government with Hun Sen.

Despite the assurances of a top Phnom Penh official that Son Sann and the Khmer Rouge were not opposed to the coalition, Son Sann said he had not yet made up his mind.

"If this is against the spirit of the five big powers' solution, we cannot accept it, he said.

The merging of factions is not addressed in the peace plan.

"We have the SNC already," Son Sann said. "For me there is no other government than the SNC, the super-government."

The SNC has few real powers. Under the peace plan, the Phnom Penh government continues its control over daily life in the capital and in its areas of control—about 80 percent of the country.

The other factions, which control smaller areas of Cambodia, keep their control, too.

The United Nations has plans to take over Phnom Penh's five key ministries—including defense, foreign affairs and finance.

Under the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), due to begin operations in May, it would keep keep control until 1993, when elections are scheduled.

Diplomats and Western observers have said the FUNCINPEC-Phnom Penh alliance was also aimed at pushing the Khmer Rouge out of the peace process.

Prince Sihanouk himself has said that if the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council wanted to redraft a peace plan excluding the Khmer Rouge, he would sign it.

But Son Sann warned of the dangers of forcing the radical Marxists back into the jungles, from where they have waged a Chinese-backed war since the early 1970s. They came to power in 1975 and ruled until they were overthrown by invading Vietnamese troops in 1979.

The Khmer Rouge must be kept in the peace process, he said. "This is the only way to avoid clashes, to avoid fighting," Son Sann said. "We have not to provoke them."

Activities of Son Sann, Ieng Mouli Reported

BK2611063091 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] The newsroom of the Voice of the Khmer radio has just received reports from Phnom Penh that His Excellency [H.E.] Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] and member of the Cambodian supreme national council [SNC]; along with Ieng Mouli, general secretary of the KPNLF Executive Committee, visited monks and Cambodian people in Kandal and Kompong Speu Provinces.

The reports say that on Friday, 22 November, H.E. Son Sann and Ieng Mouli paid respect to monks and visited people at the Prek Russei monastery in Kandal Province. On Sunday, 24 November, the day before yesterday, H.E. Son Sann and Ieng Mouli went to pay respects and visited people in Udong, Kompong Speu Province.

The reports also add that during their stay in Phnom Penh, H.E. Son Sann and Ieng Mouli also held talks with many foreign guests who paid courtesy calls on the two KPNLF leaders, including H.E. Charles Twining, permanent representative of the United States; H.E. David Burns, British ambassador to the Cambodian SNC; and Australian charge d'affaires to the SNC.

Also on 24 November, H.E. Son Sann and Ieng Mouli took part, along with other SNC members, in a meeting chaired by Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the Cambodian SNC.

Technical Reasons Postpone Khieu Samphan Return

BK2611013991 Bangkok THE NATION in English 26 Nov 91 p A2

[Excerpts] Khmer Rouge nominal leader Khieu Samphan will arrive in Phnom Penh tomorrow after a postponement of nearly two weeks to attend a meeting of the Cambodian Supreme National Council (SNC) in the capital, reliable sources said yesterday.

The sources declined to specify what flight Khieu would travel on for security reasons but said it was likely to be a commercial flight.

The sources attributed Khieu's postponement of his initial trip to Phnom Penh on Nov 18 for "technical reasons". Khieu was quoted as saying that he would go to Phnom Penh once his accommodations were ready.

The Phnom Penh governemnt was not until recently able to find a proper site to house the Khmer Rouge delegation. Previous reports said the radical Marxist group had sent its defence minister, Son Sen, to test the ground first and make sure there would be no security problems.

Despite demonstrations, there was no violence accompanying the arrival of Son Sen.

Khieu Samphan's arrival will enable the 12-member Combodian body to operate without constraints. An informal session of the SNC was held on Sunday with Son Sen attending to represent the Khmer Rouge.

Khieu Samphan is thought to be the front man for Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot, whose group is held responsible for the genocide of more than a million Cambodians during its reign of terror from 1975 to 1978. He will be accompanied by ten bodyguards trained by the Thai military.

—Cambodian leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk will visit the famous Khmer temple of Preah Vihear early next year when he tours strongholds of the tripartite resistance.

This message was passed to Khunying Phankhrua Yongchaiyut, wife of former army commander-in-chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, who arrived in Phnom Penh last week with a 25-member Thai delegation to explore economic and investment opportunities in Cambodia. [passage omitted]

Phankhrua, who left here yesterday, also quoted Sihanouk as saying during a one-hour discussion at the Royal Palace last Thursday that he would "continue to stay in the country until the four parties agree to reinstate him as a king." [passage omitted]

Students Stage Anti-Khmer Rouge Demonstration

BK2611114891 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1114 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK November 26—Hundreds of students in Phnom Penh this afternoon demonstrated against the return of the Khmer Rouge leaders to the city.

One of the Khmer Rouge leaders, Khieu Samphan, is scheduled to arrive in Phnom Penh tomorrow as a member of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia

(SNC), ten days after Son Sen, another Khmer Rouge leader who was former defence minister during Pol Pot's time, returned to the city.

The demonstrators carried banners and streamers bearing the words "Pol Pot's the killer" and shouted "Down with the Khmer Rouge".

"Strongly oppose the return to power of the Khmer Rouge", was the main slogan the demonstrators shouted during the procession along Tu Samut boulevard down to the Independence Monument where they converged.

An unidentified official who stopped to see the demonstration said "of course we did not want the Khmer Rouge to return". "But we have to accept injustice as we want national reconciliation which allowed leaders of the Khmer Rouge to be members of the SNC", he said.

French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said at a press conference in Phnom Penh during his recent visit to Cambodia that the Khmer Rouge need to be kept within the peace process.

To allow them to distance themselves would be much worse", he stressed.

Son Sen Declares No Need To Speak About Past

BK2611123691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1102 GMT 26 Nov 91

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] Phnom Penh, Nov 26 (AFP)—Thousands of students shouting "Khmer Rouge get out of Cambodia" staged the first organized anti-Khmer Rouge protest here, one day before Wednesday's scheduled arrival of leader Khieu Samphan.

But in the comfort of a government guest house far away from the chanting crowds, Khmer Rouge military chief Son Sen was convinced that the people of Cambodia love him.

"There is no problem," the white-haired, spectacled leader said in a private interview in which he was friendly and personable and made eye contact at all times.

"I am very happy to be here because we are so warmly welcomed by our compatriots," he said. "They call me uncle."

He could not see the far-away signs carried by the students—some in English and in French—reading "Pol Pot, Son Sen, Khieu Samphan = killers."

Son Sen said Khieu Samphan's return to Phnom Penh, originally expected last Wednesday, was delayed in order for an advance team to make proper security arrangements.

The Khmer Rouge members moved Tuesday from the guest house into two heavily guarded houses they purchased in the heart of Phnom Penh, he said.

"I came here first to arrange the accommodation for him," Son Sen said.

Reports in Bangkok said Khieu Samphan went to see Pol Pot before returning to Phnom Penh.

The Khmer Rouge, now under the military direction of Son Sen and the political direction of Khieu Samphan, are blamed for the deaths of more than a million people during their rule from 1975 to 1979.

"There is no need to speak about the past," Son Sen responded to all questions seeking clarification on previous Khmer Rouge activities.

"We don't like to speak about the past, but to look to the future and to speak about the national reconciliation of Cambodia," he said.

"Now every political party wants peace in Cambodia. It also is the desire of (the party of) Democratic Kampuchea to want peace, too," he said.

Pol Pot, thought by some to be still directing the Khmer Rouge from a jungle hideaway, has no role in the Khmer Rouge organization, he said.

"We don't like to speak about him because it is the past," he said. "He has ceased all his activities."

Son Sen pledged to do everything possible to promote peace and adhere to the peace treaty signed by Cambodia's factions to end a nearly 13-year civil war.

"You have to judge us by the way we will implement the peace agreement," he said.

But while the treaty calls for free elections to be held in 1993, Son Sen said they were not the main focus of the Khmer Rouge.

"Our objective is not to challenge anybody in the process of elections because we want to avoid conflict among our people," he said. "Our objective is not to get many seats in the next National Assembly. Our objective is to obtain national solidarity."

Son Sen said he was not worried about a coalition between FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia]—the party loyal to Prince Norodom Sihanouk—and the Phnom Penh government.

Prince Sihanouk announced last week that his son Prince Norodom Ranariddh, the head of FUNCINPEC, and Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen would share power.

"Our choice is to respect their decision," he said. "It is the game of democracy."

Prince Sihanouk resigned from his leadership of FUNCINPEC to take up the position of neutral chairman of the Supreme National Council (SNC).

The SNC was created under the peace plan to represent Cambodia's sovereignty while it is under United Nations supervision through the elections.

"We think (the coalition) has no effect at all on the functioning of the SNC because all political parties have to respect the peace agreement," he said.

Meanwhile, students said another protest rally—this one much bigger—was planned for the arrival of Khieu Samphan.

Son Sen's arrival on November 17 generated curiosity among Phnom Penh residents, some of whom spent the day outside his guest house, but no violence.

While some people with memories of torture and hardship under the Khmer Rouge threatened action, there have been no attacks on the guest house or any violent incidents.

Central Bank Lowers Dollar-Riel Exchange Rate

BK2511135891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1255 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Phnom Penh, Nov 25 (AFP)—Cambodia's central bank lowered its official dollar-riel exchange rate 20 percent Monday in reaction to a 40 percent plummet by the dollar on the black market.

The bank fixed the new exchange rate at 800 riel to the dollar, down from 1,000 riel on Saturday.

"We're looking into the reasons" for the plunge of the dollar, said National Bank of Cambodia Vice Director Kang Y (eds. correct). "We really don't know why, and we will keep a close eye on it."

In a 24-hour period, the riel plummeted on the black market from 1,030 riel to the dollar Saturday, to a low of 600 riel Sunday afternoon.

But by midday Monday, the dollar was up to 820 riel at streetside.

Speculation on the reason for the drop ranged from deliberate manipulation by powerful Chinese businessmen who set the rate of the dollar daily, to a sudden demand for riel to pay government taxes.

"There is a tax on imports every month," one ethnic Chinese shopkeeper and money-changer explained.

"The riel is going up because everybody has to pay taxes," he said.

But a top economist at the Asian Development Bank expressed concern that a small group of businessmen were hoarding riel in a deliberate manipulation of the market.

"These people are becoming very powerful," he warned.

At the Cambodian Commercial Bank, a joint venture with Thailand's Siam Commercial Bank, Managing Director Wanakiti Wanasilp said manipulation was possible.

"We will see. If by the end of this week, the riel doesn't go back to 1,000, that means 800 is the true value," he said. "If it does, that means somebody played a dirty trick with the money."

"It should be illegal," he said.

The event initially suspected to have triggered the dollar's fall—the announcement of a coalition government between Phnom Penh and its former enemy FUNCINPEC—did not appear to be a factor in the plunge.

The dollar has been on a steady slide since the arrival of foreign diplomats, a large United Nations force and hundreds of journalists and business people.

They have flooded the market with dollars as they set up residence, bought local goods and ate meals in the local economy.

"In the future the dollar should go down even more because there is a surplus of dollars," Wanasilp said. "There's a large volume of trade in the market."

Phnom Penh's street markets are so volatile that the exchange rate often changes several times in the same day.

The dollar had previously been fluctuating between 1,100 and 1,030 riel to the dollar, down from a high of 1200 last month.

In October, demand for dollars was high as shop-keepers needed hard currency to import goods from Thailand in anticipation of the onslaught of foreigners.

Rice Given to 776 Kompong Speu Needy Families

BK2411095491 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Text] On 10 November, Kompong Speu Province's committee for reception and distribution of aid distributed 41 metric tons of husked rice from the Cambodian Red Cross Committee to 776 needy families living in Roka Kaoh and Preah Nipean Communes, Kong Pisei District, Kompong Speu Province, who were facing food shortages due to the recent floods.

Establishment of SNC Headquarters Office Urged

BK2611024291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 25 Nov 91

["Article": "The Supreme National Council Headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk Should Have Its Headquarters so That it Can Lead the Nation in Phnom Penh and Effectively, Correctly, and Thoroughly Implement the Peace Agreement on Ending the Vietnamese War of Aggression Against Cambodia"]

[Text] The peace agreement on ending the Vietnamese war of aggression against Cambodia has been officially, legally, and solemnly signed on 23 October 1991 in Paris, France. The first strategic phase of the Vietnamese war of aggression against Cambodia has ended.

Cambodian people, young and old and men and women alike, are very happy over this historic result, which has been achieved by the entire Cambodian nation and people.

All Cambodian people and the Supreme National Council [SNC] headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk are implementing the peace agreement on ending the Vietnamese war of aggression against Cambodia, which was signed on 23 October 1991—the second strategic phase. The facts are that:

1. On 14 November, SNC Chairman Samdech Norodom Sihanouk returned to the capital, Phnom Penh.
2. On 17 November, His Excellency Son Sen, SNC member, arrived in Phnom Penh.
3. On 21 November, His Excellency Son Sann, SNC member, arrived in Phnom Penh.

These are the great results, the new historic records, of the Cambodian nation and people and of the SNC headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk after their struggle against the Vietnamese aggressors over the past nearly 13 years.

However, there are still many complications in our Cambodian people's struggle in this second phase. The enemies, near and far, both open and secret, are still striving to undermine the great national union of the Cambodian people with the aim of usurping the interests of our Cambodian nation and people.

The Cambodian nation and people and the SNC headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk have clearly seen this danger. Therefore, to enable the Cambodian nation and people to enjoy genuine independence, peace, sovereignty, and neutrality, it is imperative for the SNC headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk to have its headquarters in Phnom Penh in order to join with all Cambodian people in effectively, correctly, and thoroughly implementing the peace agreement to end the Vietnamese war of aggression against Cambodia.

As SNC Chairman Samdech Norodom Sihanouk said in his address to the nation on 16 November: The entire Cambodian nation and people should unite and reconcile. There should be no discrimination against white, black, red, or blue Khmers. There should be just a single Khmer nation. Great national union is for the purpose of defending the Cambodian nation and territory and building Cambodia into a plentiful, prosperous, and glorious nation as in the Angkor era.

Commentary Hails CPP-FUNCINPEC Alliance

BK2611044591 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 25 Nov 91

[PRACHEACHON commentary: "The Light of the Power of Truth and Justice"—date not given]

[Text] In a recent statement, the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and the Government of the State of Cambodia [SOC] solemnly declared to the compatriots inside and outside the country as well as the international community that Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk remains the fully legal and legitimate head of the state of all Cambodia as he was before the coup d'etat of 18 March 1970. At the same time, an agreement establishing an alliance between the CPP and FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] was also signed solemnly by His Excellency Hun Sen, vice chairman of the CPP, and Prince Norodom Ranariddh, secretary general of FUNCINPEC.

These are important political events of historic significance and constitute evidence clearly attesting to our regime's honor, truth, and justice given us by Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk and Prince Norodom Ranariddh. Particularly, it attests to the honesty and capabilities of our party and state which, within a period of only 13 years, have rescued our nation from ruins, revived it, and brought all-around pride-worthy progress to it.

Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk's gracious acceptance of the post of head of state, father of the entire Cambodian nation, and the establishment of an alliance between the CPP and FUNCINPEC constitute a great victory for the spirit of national reconciliation based on the truth of a single ideal of nationalism. Both Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk and Prince Norodom Ranariddh have all expressed their goodwill and sincerity, and publicly pledged to respect, not to interfere in the internal affairs of, our SOC Government, and to join hands with the CPP and the SOC Government in order to build a peaceful, plentiful, happy, prosperous, and glorious Cambodia in conformity with the desire and hope of our people.

The establishment of an alliance between the CPP and FUNCINPEC will contribute more actively and effectively to the implementation of the peace agreement signed in Paris on 23 October 1991.

It is true that during the transitional period, the building of an atmosphere of mutual trust and sincerity toward each other constitute an important factor for promoting both political and social stability so that the Cambodian people can effectively exercize their right to self-determination in selecting their future government in a free, fair, and correct election to be held in Cambodia in the future.

The Cambodian people throughout the country express their joy and declare their full support for the statement of the CPP and SOC Government in presenting to Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk—the prince father—the post as the head of state and the father of all Cambodia. We also welcome the establishment of the alliance between the CPP and FUNCINPEC by regarding this as the sublime national ideal and the lofty consideration for the nation's and people's interests.

Our people express their hope and confidence that this alliance, this national united force, will bring genuine peace and progress to our beloved land of Angkor.

Indonesia

Minister Deplores Foreign Stands on East Timor

BK2611115991 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1007 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Caracas, Nov 26 (OANA-ANTARA)—Indonesia has deplored the attitude of a number of countries which expressed too early their views over the November 12 Dili incident and linked it to external assistance.

Indonesian Minister/State Secretary Murdiono said this to reporters here on Monday evening (Tuesday morning Western Indonesian Time) when explaining the talks between President Suharto and Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez.

The minister said that during the meeting, President Perez requested President Suharto to explain the development of East Timor.

According to Murdiono, President Suharto explained to Perez the development of the Indonesian youngest province since its integration into Indonesia in 1976 until the latest development of the November 12 incident in Dili.

"We deplore the attitude of a number of countries which too hastily voiced their views over the incident and linked it to foreign loans," ANTARA correspondent A.J.F. Makiwawu in Caracas quoted the minister as saying.

Minister Murdiono stressed that the Indonesian Government wished to investigate thoroughly the incident and has set up an independent inquiry commission.

"I guaranteed that the commission will probe into the case from every aspect relating to the incident," the minister said.

In the meantime, Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas on the occasion explained that countries which have put forward their views over the incident should have waited for the results of the commission's investigation before adopting an attitude.

An attitude should not be taken only based on press reports, he said.

In reply to a reporter's question, Alatas said that the Netherlands has decided to postpone for the time being its new assistance to Indonesia, except loans already agreed upon.

The Netherlands postpones its new assistance until the results of the commission's inquiries are made public, Alatas said.

"This is what we are deploring," the minister said, adding that the Netherlands should await the result of the commission's investigation before it postpones its new assistance.

Impact of Timor Incident on Suharto's Tour Viewed

BK2111150191 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 19 Nov 91 p 11

[By Jakarta correspondent Paul Jacob]

[Text] Jakarta—Events in East Timor last week have caused some concern among senior government officials here about their possible effects on President Suharto's month-long tour of South America and Africa, starting today.

The visit was projected as an opportunity for Indonesia to prepare the agenda for next year's summit of the Nonaligned Movement (NAM), which it will chair from 1992 to 1995.

Jakarta had also intended to project its views on how the movement should reorientate itself away from the political goals of the past and towards new economic aims.

These objectives could well remain.

But Indonesia has now also to factor in the responses to questions that would be raised about the Dili tragedy and the government's handling of the situation.

One diplomat described the incident—coming at a time when Mr Suharto was stepping out across the globe and raising his international profile—as a "public relations disaster."

Much of what is known about the incident abroad had come from foreign news reports. Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas has made plain that the government here is not at all pleased with their portrayal of events.

Sources said that Indonesia's ambassadors in the countries to be visited—Mexico, Venezuela, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Senegal—have been briefed on the incident.

The Indonesian delegation will also make one-night stopovers in Hawaii and in Spain, which borders Portugal—East Timor's former colonial master and which the United Nations still recognises as the province's administering power.

Mr Suharto and his ministers will no doubt use the trip to counter any negative impression that has been created about the country.

But some observers here said there was no denying the problems the Dili tragedy created for his visit.

A grim-faced Mr Suharto was seen talking to State Secretary Murdiono and Mr Alatas on Saturday at the Istana Negara about the incident in which the government said 19 people were killed and 91 others injured.

On Sunday, two days before the start of his trip, Indonesia bowed to opinion at home and abroad and announced the establishment of a national investigation commission to get to the bottom of the matter.

The government's expression of regret at the casualties, its blaming of Fretilin separatists for inciting the riot and, in particular, the establishment of the commission were designed to counter some of the criticisms abroad over the incident.

But observers like the Centre for Strategic and International Studies' Jusuf Wanandi do not think the cloud of East Timor will hang too heavily over the president's visit.

"He is going to developing countries which, frankly, have not been very attentive to our development. It would not have been the same if he was visiting Western countries," Mr Wanandi said.

That Mr Suharto is making his most extensive trip abroad just seven months ahead of the general election and before the 1993 presidential polls has generated speculation that raising his profile abroad was intended to enhance his stature at home.

Mr Wanandi disagrees.

He said the president had never been to Mexico and was making "long-overdue" reciprocal trips to Africa which he last visited more than 20 years ago. In Venezuela, he would attend a scheduled meeting of 15 developing countries that had been postponed because of the Gulf war.

Even his participation in the Organisation of Islamic Conference summit in Senegal had been scheduled long ago.

"Indonesia's domestic politics today is not geared to this kind of projection abroad as has been suggested. Nobody cares about that except for a few of the elite. People are coming up with all kinds of explanation for his trip," Mr Wanandi said.

An Indonesian analyst who shared this view argued that the President had no need to make the present trip just to strengthen his image at home. His historic visits to China last year after relations were normalised and to the Soviet Union in 1989 had a far greater impact on the domestic scene, the analyst added.

The record of Mr Suharto's New Order government was there for all Indonesians to see, another analyst said.

Others said they sensed a growing pride among Indonesians about the country's profile on the world stage under Mr Suharto's leadership—its impending chairmanship of the NAM, its leading role in the Cambodian peace settlement, and even the speculation about Mr Alatas' candidacy for the UN Secretary-General post.

For Mr Suharto, an important aspect of his trip will be in strengthening bilateral ties and seeking broader opportunities for cooperation.

But officials said he was intending to give special emphasis to the orientation of NAM's focus in the post-Cold War era.

Although discussions on this were initiated at NAM's 1989 summit in Belgrade, he would hope to see it achieved in the three years when Indonesia was at the helm of the movement.

"He will be out to show what must be done and that Indonesia as chairman has the ability to get it done," an Indonesian economist said.

Mr Suharto believes that if there is no shift towards achieving greeater South-South economic cooperation and development, NAM will lose out to "Western" economic blocs and would risk becoming irrelevant.

Mr Suharto's attendance at the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) summit in Senegal from Dec 8 to Dec 13 will be a first.

Officials said it was regarded as being especially important by the President because it would also be the first meeting to be held since the end of the Gulf and Cold wars, and was being held in the wake of renewed Middle East peace efforts.

Indonesia has the largest Muslim population in the world, but has never portrayed itself as an Islamic state. Mr Suharto is expected to maintain that position.

But as the OIC undertakes an assessment of its role in the new world order, he will have a hitherto unused opportunity to project his credentials as a Muslim leader.

At the Senegal meeting, his delegation will be joined by Indonesian Religious Affairs Minister Munawir Syadzali.

"Suharto has done many things...been accommodating to the Muslims back home. Now he has the opportunity to gain a position with Islamic leaders abroad," an Indonesian analyst said.

Students Demonstrate at Australian Embassy 25 Nov

BK2511113891 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1043 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Jakarta, Nov 25 (OANA-ANTARA) - Around 75 Indonesian youths representing five student organizations went to the Australian Embassy here Monday calling on the Australian Government to apologize due to the recent burning of the Indonesian flag by Australian protesters in Canberra.

The five student organizations represented by the students are the Islamic Students Association (HMI), the Catholic Students Association (PMKRI), the National Indonesian Students Movement (GMNI), the Christian Students Movement (GMKI), and the Islamic Students Movement (PMII).

On the occasion, the students delivered an open letter to Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke calling for the Australian Government to respond to their protest conveyed last Nov 22, which called on the Australian Government to apologize to the Indonesian Government.

The letter also called on the Australian Government to bring the Australian protesters who burned Indonesian flag to court.

They also asked the Australian Goverment not to interfere in the domestic affairs of Indonesia and to protect Indonesians in Australia.

The third secretary of the embassy, Kevin Evans, who received the students, promised to convey the letter to the Australian Government as soon as possible.

On Nov 18, some Australian youths staged a demonstration in front of the Indonesian Embassy in Canberra to lodge a protest against Nov 12 incident in Dili, East Timor, during which they burned an Indonesian flag.

Timor Fighting Prompts Calls for 'Introspection'

BK2611091091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0755 GMT 26 Nov 91

[By Bhimanto Suwastoyo]

[Text] Jakarta, Nov 26 (AFP)—The recent army firing in East Timor has prompted calls for introspection and a review of Indonesian policies and development efforts in the former Portguese colony in the last 15 years.

"Now, a need for introspection is really felt, on the realization of present development approach in Indonesia. Is the prosperity approach used throughout the country right? Is the security approach implemented right?" the MERDEKA daily wrote in an editorial Tuesday.

The staunchly nationalist newspaper's editorial concerned development in Indonesia in general, but many observers viewed it as directed toward East Timor, which Jakarta unilaterally declared its 27th province in 1976.

Indonesian troops fired on an unarmed crowd of mourners in the provincial capital, Dili, two weeks ago, killing 19 people by official count although other sources including witnesses set the death toll as high as 115.

"All sides should be able to review their respective roles, be that the local government, the armed forces or the church. Has, whatever they have done so far, been appropriate?" said Salvador Ximenes Soares, MP of the ruling Golkar party.

Soares, a native East Timorese, was quoted by the BERITA BUAN daily on Tuesday as saying all sides should learn from the incident rather than simply blaming one another.

Jakarta-appointed East Timor Governor Mario Viegas Carrascalao, also a native East Timorese, was quoted by the EDITOR weekly as saying the development model for East Timor "cannot possibly be as for other provinces."

He has repeatedly called for a specific approach to development in the region, which unlike the rest of Indonesia was never a Dutch colony. Portugal was the colonial power in East Timor for four centuries.

Carrascalao told TEMPO weekly in an interview that the region's fundamental problem was economic.

"People can say this and that about East Timor but the origin of all (problems) is the economy."

"The issue of integration (of East Timor into Indonesia) would just be nonsense if the economic problems are not overcome," he said.

Editor quoted Carrascalao as saying the government should make "adjustments" in developing East Timor and not "force the East Timorese population to adjust itself with other provinces.

He cited the successful Indonesian drive to educate the local population but said jobs were too few and failed to accommodate the region's primary industry, agriculture.

"Many educated youth cannot be absorbed by the employment sector, which had already been uprooted from their traditional root, agriculture," he said.

"It is a heavy burden for the government to provide jobs. With the high level of education they have received, it would be simply impossible to send them back to farming," Carrascalao said.

TEMPO quoted leading economist Hadisusastro as calling on the government to shift the orientation of its development programs in East Timor to production.

Programs should focus on production of the right commodity and ensure proper marketing channels, he said.

Two rural sociologists, Edhie Jatmiko and Mubyarto, said government efforts to improve the local economy, including development of the agricultural sector, had not been supported by the provision of market outlets.

In an essay in TEMPO, they called for a simpler decision-making process on development in East Timor and urged Jakarta to consider decision-making fora based on the local, traditional system involving village elders.

Carrascalao told TEMPO many of the village-level institutions imposed by Jakarta were "very alien for the East Timor population."

He also advocated broader use of the traditional power structure in communicating development objectives.

Laos

Leaders Greet Japanese Emperor's Birthday

BK2511124891 Vientiane KPL in English 0903 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Vientiane, Nov 25 (KPL)—President Kaysone Phomvihan of the Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic] has sent to his majesty the emperor of Japan a message greetings on his birthday.

The Lao president expressed hope that the relations of friendship happily existing between the Lao PDR and Japan will be further developed in the interest of their people.

On the same occasion, Lao Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon and Lao Foreign Minister Phoun Sipaseut also extended greetings and good wishes to their Japanese counterparts.

Article Praises Army's Role in National Defense

BK2311135391 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0430 GMT 23 Nov 91

["Tradition-telling" article: "Sixteen Years of National Defense" by Boualapha Thindoi]

[Text] Beloved listeners, after the completion of our national-democratic revolution, our country was eventually transformed into the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] on 2 December 1975. That development constituted an important event in the emergence of the independence and freedom of the Lao nation. Since then, the multiethnic Lao people have become the masters of their own country. They have switched from carrying out the task of fighting for liberation of the country to the duties of defending the country and building the national economy and culture so as to bring prosperity and growth to the country.

Over the past 16 years, our entire party, Army, and people have endeavored to implement the resolutions adopted at the 3d, 4th, and 5th party congresses and to translate into reality the first, second, and third state plans aimed at building foundations for the national economy and making our people firm in ideological and political thinking, rich in the economic perspective, progressive in the cultural and social life, and strong in national defense. So far, our people have tried to gradually fulfill the above-mentioned fundamental tasks, thereby bringing more changes to our society.

New development has also emerged in our national economy. Our people have come to realize their right of mastership and their living conditions have been fundamentally improved.

In the past 16 years, our army in particular has encountered numerous difficulties caused by the collusion between a number of internal reactionaries and the international reactionary forces who have constantly carried out subversive activities against our people, especially at a time when our party's restructuring policy has been put into practice. It is unfortunate that in implementing this policy, we still lack experience. Moreover, the international situation also appears to become more complex and the socialist system has been plagued with numerous severe crises. Seizing such a favorable opportunity, the enemies have resorted to employing numerous tactics and methods, including using force and employing psychological and economic tactics, to encircle and undermine the LPDR, thus bringing public disorder to certain areas. During the 1980's in particular, our country was faced with the most severe danger of war caused by the external reactionary forces on two occasions. As a consequence, some localities in our country were once again put under a new war situation. Thanks to the all-round, direct, centralized, and unified leadership of our party, the Lao People's Army [LPA] resolutely showed its determination to fight against the enemies by making sacrifices with blood and life to defend our beloved and cherished fatherland with the wholehearted material and moral support from our people in the rear. As a result, our army managed to brilliantly fulfill its sacred duty in defending our territorial integrity by conceding not even a square inch of our land to the enemies. The fighting to defend our country in the 1980's has once again proved that we have managed to apply the experiences accumulated by our army in a skillful manner. As a result, the role of our army as the defender of our country has become more prominent with every passing day.

In addition to carrying out public security maintenance duties, over the past 16 years our army has also made great contributions to the development of the national economy. It has contributed to building the foundations at the grass roots and in remote mountainous regions in order to turn them into production areas and to link them to the national defense work, thereby turning the national defense and public security maintenance work into the duty of the entire masses. The Mountainous Region Development Enterprise and other companies set up by the National Defense Ministry have paid close attention to building and bringing a new face to the economic and cultural zones in many inaccessible mountainous regions.

All in all, even though the economic situation in our country appears to be disheartening and our soldiers have sometimes not received their salaries for many months, thanks to the glorious tradition of our army and under the leadership of the party, our army has managed to weather these turbulent storms by striving to become self-sufficient in food production. All this shows that the LPA always makes every sacrifice to fulfill the ideals of the party and to bring happiness to the people by trying to further enhance and to creatively bring into full play its fine tradition in executing its work.

Consolidation of Nationalities' Solidarity Urged

BK2311091591 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 22 Nov 91

["Article" in 22 November issue of PASASON: "Consolidate, Cement Solidarity Among Nationalities Under the Single Lao Community"]

[Text] Harmonious solidarity is considered a factor which determines the survival and development of our nation. In this regard, the Party Central Committee noted in the conclusive point in the political report presented at the fifth party congress that concrete practices in the history of the founding, survival, and development of our Lao nation have proved this fact. Everyone is well aware that the survival and development of our Lao nation of today has resulted from the unique solidarity of the multiethnic people who have undergone great sacrifices and industriously joined in engaging in labor for generations.

In the time when our country was invaded by foreign powers, our multiethnic people, under the leadership of Ong Keo and Ong Kommadam as national heroes in the southern region, Pho Kadouat as national hero in the central region, and Chaofa Phatchai as national hero of Lao Soung tribal people in the northern region, united and heroically carried out the struggle against the foreign occupation to regain the independence and freedom. During the 30-year period of struggle against old and new colonialism, our multiethnic Lao people gathered and formed a patriotic front under the party's leadership, and then carried out, in a high spirit of sacrifice, the hard and complicated struggle. Following the struggle, they crushed the dominating yoke of the colonialists, completely liberated the country, and established the Lao People's Democratic Republic on 2 December 1975, thus ushering in a new era—an era in which the nation has achieved the independence and the people have enjoyed genuine freedom.

Over the past 16 years, compatriots of all tribes have together promoted and expanded the national, revolutionary traditions, and actively taken part in the cause of defending and building the country. As a result, peace and stability have been maintained in the country. Through the national liberation struggle and the struggle to safeguard the revolutionary gains and to develop the country, fraternal people of various tribes, in particular the Hmong people, have achieved considerable progress and development. Many of them have become party and state leaders. Many Hmong tribal people have become educated and intellectual persons. Some have served as pilots while many others have served as doctors of medicine, artists, and engineers who have maintained high capabilities and made great contributions to the cause of defending and building the country.

With the attentive care provided by our party and state, the material and spiritual life of the Hmong tribal people as well as of people of other tribes has been improved and their ways of earning a living have also been basically changed for the better in all respects. Noteworthy is that the equality among the various nationalities have been extensively implemented. All these are not an incidental event. But, they have resulted from the attention paid by our party to the ethnic minority people.

The Lao people of Hmong as well as of other tribes have expressed gratitude to the Lao People's Revolutionary Party for educating and training them. To express gratitude to the party and to the compatriots of other tribes, let Hmong tribal people closely unite and check all divisive and subversive schemes of hostile powers, resolutely struggle to defend their home country, strive to build and improve their living conditions, and together with the people of other tribes build Laos into a peaceful, independent, unified, democratic, and prosperous country.

According to the customary practice, the Hmong tribal people organize the celebration and entertainments to mark the traditional Kin Chiang New Year festival at their original localities after completing their crop harvesting. Young Hmong boys and girls have never celebrated the Kin Chiang festival in other localities or other countries. Therefore, the celebration of the traditional Kin Chiang festival must be connected with the consolidation and cementing of the solidarity among various nationalities in the single Lao community in order to jointly defend, build, and develop, to make ever more prosperous, the land which our ancestors left as our heritage.

Philippines

U.S. Formally Turns Over Clark Air Base

HK2611044791 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0400 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Today the United States formally turned over management of Clark Air Base to the Philippines. In a simple ceremony, General Jimmy Adams, commander-in-chief of the U.S. Pacific Air Force, turned over the symbolic key of Clark Air Base to General Lisandro Abadia, Philippine Armed Forces chief of staff. The ceremony was attended by Defense Secretary Renato de

Villa and U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner. Clark Air Base was under the control of the U.S. 13th Air Force for 90 years. [sentence as heard]

De Villa, Abadia Comment on Turnover

HK2611102091 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 26 Nov 91

[By Bert Silva]

[Text] Defense Secretary Renato de Villa, during the handing over ceremony of Clark Air Base, said that the reliquishment of U.S. control of Clark poses a new challenge to Filipinos. De Villa added that Filipinos have the capability and determination to be self-reliant with the unity brought about by the withdrawal of the U.S. military bases from the country working in their favor. He also said that we should maintain the friendly relations we have with the United States.

Meanwhile, General Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces of the Philippines chief, said that the Armed Forces should have renewed energy and new direction under the new Republic of the Philippines- United States relations.

The simple ceremony for the handing over of Clark Air Force Base was attended by both civilian and military officials headed by Pampanga Governor Ben Guiao, Mabalacat Mayor Fred Halili, and Brigadier General Pantaleon Dumalao Jr., Philippine National Police regional director for Central Luzon.

President Aquino Replaces Customs Commissioner

HK2611070991 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] President Aquino dismissed Salvador Mison from the post of Customs commissioner and appointed Finance Under Secretary Tomas Apacible as his replacement. The president personally informed Mison of her decision when she summoned him to Malacanang this morning. Although the reason for Mison's dismissal is not known, he said that Malacanang has received undue pressure for his dismissal. Before meeting the president this morning, Mison said Senator Ernesto Maceda is among those who want him out of the government. It is recalled that Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao said the Senate Ways and Means Committee refused to support new revenue measures if Mison remains as the Customs commissioner.

Armory Raid Linked to Military Rebels

HK2611015391 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Over 50 antitank rockets and machine guns and several assault rifles were reported missing from the Camp Crame armory. Philippine National Police Director General Cesar Nazareno has ordered a thorough investigation of the missing weapons which were reported lost last week. Sources said only trained military personnel use the missing weapons. Members of the Revolutionary Nationalist Alliance are suspected of being behind the armory raid, which may have been carried out last week.

The weapons were discovered missing only yesterday, two days after General Lisandro Abadia, the Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff, declared the resumption of military operations against the rebel soldiers led by former Colonel Gregorio Honasan, after the latter ignored the 23 November deadline.

The sources said the rebel soldiers may have possibly taken the antitank rockets after destroying the barbed wire placed on top of Camp Crame's fence. The armory is located near Greenhills beside the military camp. It is suspected that the successful raid may have been carried out with the help of some Crame personnel who sympathize with the rebel soldiers. The absence of untoward incidents, like shooting, which could have attracted attention during the raid led to this theory.

Abadia Says Raid Unconnected to New Coup Attempt

HK2611093791 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 26 Nov 91

[By Rodney Allego—italicized passages in English]

[Text] Armed Forces chief General Lisandro Abadia said that he sees no connection between the raid on the Camp Crame armory and the threat of new attempted coup d'etat. According to Abadia, the military was able to recover all the weapons which were stolen from the armory last Monday morning which included a 90-mm recoiless rifle [RR] and 19 light antitank weapons [LAW].

According to an intelligence official, the raid was headed by renegade Army Captain Rey Ordonez, who is said to be the right-hand man of Commodore Domingo Calajate. Abadia also said that they expect to capture more rebels after launching a massive offensive against the rightist rebels. There are 11 rebel soldiers who still need to be captured by the military, including Lieutenant Colonel Gregorio Gringo Honasan, Commodore Calajate, former Brigadier General Jose Maria Zumel, and former Navy Captain Felix Turingan.

Here is the statement that General Abadia made:

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Were you able to capture anyone inside, sir?

[Abadia] Yes, we were.

[Reporter] How many were captured?

[Abadia] I think there were around one 90 RR and 19 LAWs. I am not sure.

[Reporter] Were you able to capture any of the perpetrators?

[Abadia] Yes there were some who were captured.

[Reporter] How many, sir?

[Abadia] I'm not sure whether it is [indistinct number] or one.

[Reporter] Do you think Gringo was behind it?

[Abadia] What?

[Reporter] *Do you think that any of the 11 fugtive officers is behind the plot?*

[Abadia] *I have to confirm it yet.*

[Reporter] *So Colonel Ordonez did not mention?* [sentence as heard]

[Abadia, interrupting] No.

[Unidentified reporter] *When do you expect any follow up to bear fruit?*

[Abadia] *Well, if things were improving, it would be immediately after it happened. We get some...*

[Reporter, interrupting] *But do you expect that a...*

[Abadia, continuing] *We expect something more positive will happen.* [end recording]

Military Launches Hunt for Armory Raiders

HK2611112991 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0800 GMT 26 Nov 91

[By Fernan Imberga, DZRH Unit 22]

[Text] The police and the military have launched a manhunt for 12 rebel soldiers who were among the 14 who raided the armory inside Camp Crame yesterday morning.

In relation to this, Chief Superintendent Vic Vinarao, Criminal Investigation Service [CIS] director, reported the arrest of two renegade soldiers and a civilian accomplice and the recovery of the stolen arms by the combined forces of the Armed Forces of the Philippines counterintelligence group and the Philippine National Police [PNP] operatives in the safe house of the rebels in San Juan City. Vinarao submitted his report to General Cesar Nazareno, PNP chief, and identified the soldiers as ex-Army Technical Sargent Dionisio Obiana; ex-Marine Sargent Ricardo Expedillion, former driver of Colonel Gringo Honasan; and a civilian known as Dindo Aduhar. The three were arrested in a raid inside a house in 37 M. Reyes Street, San Juan, Metro Manila. Vinarao also reported the recovery of 20 antitank weapons and a 90 mm recoilless rifle, 258 sticks of dynamite, five pieces of homemade bombs, detonators, and two bolt cutters which were stolen from Camp Crame.

Meanwhile, ex-Serrgent Danny Cabatutan, trusted henchman of Honasan, and ex-PCC2C Orlando Maternal were able to escape from the raid by the PNP and AFP intelligence operatives by passing through the drainage at the back of the rebels' safe house. During a tactical investigation, the captured rebel soldiers have admitted to Superintendent Lucas Managilod, CIS National Capital District commander, that about 14 rebel soldiers from the Reform the Armed Forces Movement-Soldiers of the Filipino People-Young Soldiers Union were involved in the raid on Camp Crame. It was also found that some of the rebel soldiers entered the PNP Logistic Command [LOGCOM] Compound while some waited within the vicinity of Epifanio de los Santos Avenue and Annapolis street in Greenhills, San Juan, aboard a Ford Fierra jeep and a civilian-type jeep. In relation to this, the CIS is currently investigating some of the guards at the PNP LOGCOM to find out whether they have participated in the operation.

Reputed Communist Intelligence Chief Captured

HK2611072491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0648 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Manila, Nov 26 (AFP) - Authorities announced Tuesday the capture of a top communist insurgent officer and the death of five people during a clash between guerrillas and soldiers in the central Philippines.

Police captured Jesus Salvino, the alleged intelligence chief of the communist New People's Army (NPA) general command, at a street in a Manila suburb Monday, police said.

Salvino, who directed the preparation of intelligence information on the armed forces, has a 500,000 peso (18,500 dollar) reward for his capture.

The police confiscated from him a pistol, 2,600 dollars in cash, several thousand Philippine pesos and rebel documents, an official statement said.

The NPA, armed wing of the banned Communist Party of the Philippines, has an esimated 10,000 to 15,000 fighters nationwide.

In another development in the central island of Samar, five people were killed Monday after 10 NPA guerrillas and 18 government troops clashed near the capital town of Catarman, an Army official said.

The fight, which lasted about an hour, left five suspected NPA members dead, including a woman, Colonel Raul Marquez of the 801st Army Brigade said.

The cries of a one-year-old baby girl left by retreating NPA in a hamlet led soldiers to the bodies, he said.

Offensive Against Communists in Quezon Ordered

HK2511033491 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0300 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] The Southern Luzon Command [Solcom] has ordered the military in Quezon and Laguna to carry out combat operations against communist terrorists even if the unilateral cease-fire declared by the government in the two provinces is still in force.

General Federico Ruiz Jr., the Solcom chief, said the people's wish for peace has been blatantly disregarded by the New People's Army [NPA] as manifested by an ambush of a unit of the Charlie Company in Barangay Malaya, Lopez, Quezon. According to Ruiz, despite the suspension of operations against the communist guerrillas and the military's issuance of safe conduct passes to rebel leaders, the NPA has continuously attacked and ambushed military troops in the area. In view of this, the Solcom chief said he has no choice but to launch offensives against the NPA.

Aquino 'May Support' Ramos in 1992 Election

HK2511030591 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 24 Nov 91

[Text] Bulacan Governor Roberto Pagdanganan has disclosed that President Corazon Aquino will support former Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos in the 1992 presidential elections. Pagdanganan said the president came to this decision after consulting the various sectors of society in the country.

Last Saturday, Press Secretary Tomas Buddy Gomez III stated that the president has not made any decision yet and has not given any promise of support to any politician.

Pagdanganan said he met with President Aquino last Wednesday and assured the chief executive he will support Ramos in the 1992 elections. Mrs. Aquino in turn told Governor Pagdanganan that Ramos is the candidate she may support in the coming elections. The Bulacan governor added that after consultation with various sectors, within and outside the Struggle of Filipino Democrats [LDP], the president discovered that there was stronger support for Ramos than for his closest rival, House Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr., for the party's presidential nomination.

Meanwhile, Ramos has confirmed the Bulacan governor's statement that President Aquino will support him in the forthcoming 1992 elections. Ramos said he first heard the news from Davao del Sur Governor Douglas Cagas, vice president of the Provincial Governors' League of the Philippines, after his talks with President Aquino last week.

For House Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr.'s part, he said he does not believe the news that came from Ramos' camp. Mitra said that the president's position is to formally announce the candidate she will support on her birthday on 25 January next year. Mitra stressed that Mrs. Aquino will appear a liar if she breaches her previous statement that she will only announce the name of the candidate she will support on her birthday. The house speaker continues to hope that he will be endorsed by the chief executive despite the disclosure by Governor Pagdanganan.

Thailand

Chatchai's, Adviser's Assets Ordered Confiscated

BK2611135491 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] The Assets Probing Committee today announced confiscation of assets of General Chatchai Chunhawan and his adviser, Phithak Intharawitthayanan. General Sitthi Chirarot, chairman of the committee, informed reporters this afternoon that the committee's collection of evidence and investigation against 13 individuals suspected of having extraordinary wealth showed that two individuals—former prime minister Gen. Chatchai Chunhawan and Phithak Intharawitthayanan, adviser to the former prime minister —will have their assets confiscated. Gen. Sitthi said they would have the rights to appeal the confiscation in accordance with the royal decree amending order No. 26 of the National Peacekeeping Council.

The Assets Probing Committee will officially issue a directive confiscating assets acquired by Gen. Chatchai during his tenure as prime minister, by Gen. Chatchai's wife, and by Phithak as the assets which were acquired dishonestly or assets which increased in an abnormal manner. The confiscated assets of Gen. Chatchai consist of money in 18 bank accounts and three promisory notes totaling 51 million baht, one plot of land, three cars, and one motorcycle, as well as other assets which have been returned by individuals and juristic persons, making a grand total of 266 million baht.

Phithak's confiscated assets consist of condominiums, eight land title deeds, and other property totaling 335 million baht.

Asa on Foreign Reaction to Draft Constitution

BK2611080391 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] The foreign attitude toward the current deliberation over the draft constitution will not affect the stability of the Thai Government, but various countries want Thailand to hold general elections as soon as possible. Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin made such a statement.

[Begin recording] [Asa] They should look at it from the point of view that amendments have been made to make the draft constitution more democratic. I do not know what other people think about it. I cannot speak for foreigners. Regarding foreigners' point of view, the draft constitution gives considerable authority to the House of Representatives at a level that should be satisfactory. What is very important is that after the general election, members of the House of Representatives will still have the right to amend the constitution. This is really important. That is what I think, but I cannot speak for foreigners. Foreigners would be satisfied with the improvements carried out to make the draft constitution more democratic.

[Unidentified reporter] Has anyone asked you about this?

[Asa] No, not yet. The draft constitution was only revised yesterday.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] foreign countries to boycott Thailand on the constitution?

[Asa] No, not at all. This is our internal affair and is a proper expression of democracy. It does not matter whether other countries accept the opinions of the Thai people, we think our own way for our own benefit. We want stability. We want general elections to be held as soon as possible. This is what other countries would like to have happen in our country. However, they may not interfere in our affairs, nor may they tell us how to conduct our business. [end recording]

Finance Minister on Foreign Economic Investment

BK2411041791 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Nov 91 p 1, 3

[Text] Finance Minister Suthi Singhasane admitted yesterday that foreign investment in Thailand might be affected by the Constitution if it contains undemocratic clauses.

However, Mr Suthi said he believed that the impact of the Constitution on foreign investment here "might be insignificant."

After making the opening speech at a seminar organised by the Stock Exchange of Thailand's Center for Capital Market Studies at the Ambassador City-Jomtien Hotel in Phatthaya yesterday, Dr Suthi reasoned that foreign investment here depended more on local economic performances.

Dr Suthi said that Thailand's gross domestic product (GDP) growth this year was expected to be around 8 per cent with an anticipated inflation rate of about 6 per cent.

He said the present economic growth rate resulted from mainly the industrial and service sectors.

"This indicates that the fundamental structure of the Thai economy has shifted from agriculture to industry and services," he noted.

He noted that the rapid growth in manufacturing had resulted in a rapid increase in imports of intermediate products, raw materials and capital goods. As a result, the trade deficit had increased from US$4 billion to $8.82 billion during 1988-90, while the first quarter this year alone was $2.84 billion.

However, he said an increase in foreign earnings from tourism, a decrease in interest payments, a rise in remittance from Thais working overseas and an increase in portfolio investments had pushed up the balance of payment to a surplus of $1.59 billion to $1.96 billion during 1988-90.

As of March 31, the balance of payments recorded a surplus of $988 million.

Mr Suthi said at present Thailand's international reserves stood at around $17 billion.

Dr Suthi said that Thailand's National Seventh Plan, covering October 1991-September 1996, was the first plan which clearly specifies policies and measures relating to capital market developments, as follows:

1. Development of financial instruments: Priority would be given to corporate debt instruments such as commercial papers, debentures and corporate bonds; development of convertibles, guaranteed bonds, income bonds, mortage bonds, swops and options.

2. Securities would be promoted to increase liquidity: A specific institution woudl be founded and Trust Laws would be utilised to support such activities. A primary market for government securities would be boosted while secondary markets for bonds would be stimulated. Development of long-term credit for industrial investment and housing, and privatisation and promotion of competition for fund management.

3. Development of financial intermediaries: Emphasis would be put on human resources, supervision and regulation.

4. Development of investors' base: These include promotion of institutional and individual investors in capital markets through appropriate changes in regulations; promotion of portfolio investment by insurance firm provident funds and other fund management; expansion of securities businesses to rural areas; promotion of Employee Stock Ownership Plans; promotion of foreign investment, especially for closed-end funds.

5. Development of the SET [Stock Exchange of Thailand]: It includes restructuring of the SET by separating supervisory activities from operating activities via establishment of SIB for supervisory activities while the SET remains in trading activities. Support of an over-the-counter market, futures and options markets would be set up.

6. Other development areas including the infrastructure of the capital market.

In other developments, Dr Suthi said that he had asked the president of the Stock Exchange of Thailand Maruay Phadungsithi to retain his post until after the implementation of the proposed Securities Investment Board (SIB), which is a powerful body designed to regulate local capital markets similar to the U.S.' Securities and Exchange Commission.

However, Dr Suthi said that Dr Maruay merely smiled after hearing the request. The minister said he interpreted this to mean that the SET president had agreed to his request.

Paper Rejects Constitution After Second Reading

BK2311154191 Bangkok NAEO NA in Thai 23 Nov 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Please Make a Good Assessment of the Situation"]

[Text] The National Legislative Assembly [NLA] voted for the draft constitution in the second reading amid opposition and condemnation by politicians, academics, students, and the general public, all of who consider that the constitution is drafted in a way to preserve the power of the National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC] by means of parliamentary dictatorship. This factor was claimed by the NPKC itself as a reason for staging the coup [on 23 February]. Apart from the 137 NLA members who voted for the draft, we never heard of anybody speaking in support of the constitution. The draft has passed the second reading and the third reading is scheduled in 15 days.

Opposition to the draft has widely been reported by the mass media, with the exception of the five television channels. The television stations even failed to mention the prime minister's comment that he was disappointed after the passage of the draft constitution in the second reading. The people read from newspapers about the mass rallies and protests against the constitution. They know which clauses and which provisions in the draft constitution are undemocratic, and they know about the anti-constitution campaigns launched by students, academics, lecturers, and politicians, which are sweeping across the country. The opponents want to make their voices heard by the 137 NLA members—to make the 137 NLA members know that their decision did not get the approval of some hundreds of thousands, or even a million, people.

We have never doubted the sincerity of the 137 NLA members, who raised their hands in support of the draft constitution in the second reading. They are honorable people, with good knowledge and judgment, and they acted independently without being pressured. Despite the fact that they voted for the constitution, we still call upon them to heed the voice of the tens, or hundreds, of thousands people who protested against the charter. Those people, all from different walks of life, do not accept only particular clauses in the charter. We therefore appeal to the NLA members to review their decision, taking into consideration the voice of a majority of people. We call upon them to abandon their false pride—the chairman of the scrutiny committee said that he does not want to see changes in the draft because that would mean the committee has succumbed to public opinion. Please stop fooling yourselves; not all of you have agreed unanimously to every article in the draft constitution anyway.

We said in our editorial yesterday that it is better to have a constitution than to have nothing at all because a constitution would serve as a master plan for laws related to a general election to be held under a democratic system. Alas, we must reverse our stand today since it is clear now that elections will have only a small significance under certain clauses and provisions in the draft constitution which passed the second reading. Under clauses in this constitution, elected members of parliament [MP's] cannot fully perform their duties as representatives of the people. The persons who will play a major role are those 270 senators to be selected by the NPKC and appointed by a royal decree. The 270 senators, with support of only 40 elected representatives needed, will already be able to form a majority in the National Assembly and have control of the national administration. The remaining 300 MP's will not be able to play a significant role.

Amid reports about campaigns against the constitution which are sweeping the country, we appeal to officials in charge of national security, law and order, to be prepared for eventualities. Please do not underestimate the situation. Don't rule out the possibility of history repeating itself—what happened on 14 October 1973 could reoccur. We are also appealing to the 137 NLA members that it is still not too late for them to heed the people's voice when they take action over the draft constitution in the third reading.

Columnist Condemns Restrictions on TV Coverage

BK2211045191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 22 Nov 91 p A8

[By Thepchai Yong: "Freedom and Truth: The Casualties"]

[Text] So what was essentially the biggest anti-military rally at Sanam Luang on Tuesday night passed as a "non-story" for the five television stations. Freedom of the press for Thai television has effectively become the latest casualty of the military's attempts at containing growing political dissent.

From now on, only "constructive news"—as the National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC) would want to describe it—is permitted on the two state-owned TV stations, Channels 3 and 9, which until last week had tried hard to maintain a semblance of objectivity in their political news coverage. They had dutifully presented both sides of the story on critical political issues, especially the debate on the draft constitution. The two stations are now practically barred from airing news and views critical of the military and the draft constitution. On the other hand, Channels 5 and 7 of the Army have always faithfully served as mouthpieces for the military. The fifth station, Channel 11 of the Public Relations

Department, has quietly toed the government line of non-involvement in the ongoing debate on the draft constitution.

It was without doubt a desperate move by the military leaders on the National Peacekeeping Council, coming at the height of dissension against the draft constitution whose content was largely tailored to fit the junta's political designs. "Black out TV coverage and millions out there will not know what is happending" was probably the wishful thinking entertained by the junta. And it may have been right to some extent.

There are people out in the provinces who do not read newspapers and who rely mostly on television for news. They probably wouldn't know that the credibility of the NPKC is being increasingly challenged by politicians, academics and students, and the free press. And they probably have no way of knowing that on Tuesday night, 70,000 people chanted in unison at Sanam Luang for an early demise of the junta.

This is indeed a paradox. The audiences that have been shut out from objective television news reporting are the very same people in whom the Interior Ministry is trying to instill some sense of democracy through a costly "Teach Democracy" programme. Thousands of volunteers have been out in villages throughout the country under the Bt [Baht] 200-million programme, a brain child of Interior Minister Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi, to prepare them for the upcoming general elections.

While the value of the programme has been consistently questioned, television was seen as doing a much more effective job in raising the political awareness of the voters if only it was given the freedom to do so. Channels 3 and 9 should be commended for having tried. Instead of looking at the two stations' objective reporting in a positive light, the nervous military leaders chose to interpret it differently.

Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun, who claims to champion freedom of information, has done little to prevent the whatever little television news freedom from being snuffed out. In fact the order to muzzle the TV stations came from the bureaucracy over which his government has direct control. The order was signed by Aphilat Otsatanan, permanent secretary of the Prime Minister's Office who is ex officio chairman of the board of directors of the Mass Communication Organization of Thailand [MCOT] which controls Channels 3 and 9. Aphilat claimed the order was issued at the instruction of the NPKC leaders who found political news coverage by the two stations to be tilted in favour of the dissenting politicians.

Anan has been content with repeating that he knew nothing about the order and that he personally respects freedom of mass media. But what is happening right under his nose probably indicates otherwise. That the two MCOT's television stations have been muzzled by the military is not something that can be taken lightly by the prime minister who has made clear his commitment to democracy. After all, freedom of information, like freedom of expression, is one of the most fundamental elements in a democratic system.

It is hard to believe that Anan is not prepared to confront the military leaders on this matter. He has challenged them on much more serious issues before and won.

Anan and his government can definitely do this country a great service by fighting for freedom of information on the state television networks. Of course, we don't expect televisions to enjoy the same degree of freedom as the private print media. But the least he can push for is to allow them to tell their viewing audience the truth instead of parroting half-truths of the powers-that-be.

The way the NPKC is putting the lid on television news reporting obviously contradicts its claimed desire to build a strong foundation for democracy. The only way for people to truly understand the essence of democracy is to have access to a free flow of information so that they can raise their own political awareness. And that can be achieved only when the people are getting objective news reports—and not just propaganda. Besides the press, television is one of the most effective media—if used correctly—in getting the people to understand all sides of important political issues and make their own judgement.

Most importantly, lest some people might have forgotten, we must remember that all the five television stations are state property built by tax-payers' money. For that reason there is no justification whatsoever for any powers-that-be to try to use them to serve their narrow self-interests.

Assembly Chairman Appeals for Compromise on Draft

BK2611023791 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 26 Nov 91 p 3

[Text] National Legislative Assembly [NLA] chairman Ukrit Mongkhonnawin in a nationwide television appearance called for an end to the clash of opinions over the draft charger so that a general election can be held as soon as possible.

Answering questions raised by well-known television anchorman Somkiat Onwimon about the process of considering the draft Constitution, Dr Ukrit said the NLA had taken the middle path.

The draft charter has come from compromise, and the NLA had listened to public opinion throughout the process, he said.

It is a good sign for democracy that students, academics and politicians have come out and honestly shown their opinions.

Most of the public demands have been met, Dr Ukrit said.

Unlike the drafting of the 1978 Constitution when the situation was tense and confrontation was serious, the NLA has resorted to compromise, he said.

Despite having made concessions, the NLA did not feel it had lost face because the people's wishes must come first.

NLA members should voice their opinions, taking into consideration public opinion, in voting on the draft charter in its third reading on December 7, Dr Ukrit urged.

At least 196 votes are required to pass the charter into law, he said.

The NLA has conceded to public opinion by giving the Speaker of the Lower House the power to countersign a Royal command appointing the prime minister, he pointed out.

The Senate Speaker, who is also Parliament President, will only be a ceremonial leader, he said.

MPs will still enjoy immunity in debates but the mass media, including radio, television and newspapers, must be careful not to publicise any remarks whiuch may infringe on the rights of outsiders, Dr Ukrit said.

It will not be too easy to amend the Constitution, which requires one-half of the members of both houses, and not too difficult, Dr Ukrit said.

If the Constitution is too easy to be amended, it would not be stable. But if it is too difficult, it may be torn up again, said Dr Ukrit, adding that the draft charter has therefore taken the middle path.

Meanwhile, M.R. Khukrit Pramot urged all sides cocerned to compromise.

Now that many "unfavourable points" in the draft charter have been dropped, those opposing the draft should be satisfied as they have got most of their demands.

The draft should not now be called dictatorial, he said.

Concerning the power of senators to join a no-confidence debate against the government, M.R. Khukrit said it would deter coups.

Coups are feared by the military, because whenever they stage a coup they are condemned, he said.

Asked if there would be more coups, he said: "I don't want to see it happen again."

All sides should be satisfied so that an election can be held, he said.

Prachakon Thai Party leader Samak Sundarawet forecast yesterday that the draft Constitution would be rejected in its third reading.

Speaking at a dinner at a Bangkok hotel, the veteran politician said the much-criticised draft charter would eventually be rejected by the National Legislative Assembly.

The 1978 Constitution would be dusted off to replace the draft charter, Mr Samak predicted.

A popular upheaval like the one on October 14, 1973, would not happen again, he added.

Military Rejects Further Concessions on Draft

BK2611023191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 26 Nov 91 pp A1, A2

[Text] The pro-democracy movement rejected fresh concessions by the interim legislature which agreed under mounting pressure yesterday to curb the authority of the Senate, a possible power base for the armed forces after the next election.

The movement, which organized a rally by some 2,000 people at Thammasat University last night, vowed to fight on and shrugged off military leaders' veiled warnings that the armed forces could not bend any further.

However, it appeared the movement was divided into two camps yesterday, with one group favouring a continued radical push and the other wanting a more pragmatic approach to avoid cornering the generals.

Political parties and other groups that form the extended movement agreed to separately seek public opinion on the latest changes to the charter draft before meeting again tomorrow to try to unify their stand.

Under last-minute amendments made to the charter draft by the military-dominated National Legislative Assembly [NLA], the Senate is deprived of power to work jointly with the House of Representatives in selecting the prime minister and deliberating crucial bills.

But the assembly decided to maintain other controversial clauses empowering the Senate to oust the government in joint Senate-House of Representatives censure sessions or deliberation of royal decrees.

Observers say this power is enough to put the next government at the Senate's mercy. A united Senate needs the support of only 45 MPs to oust the government in a no-confidence session or by derailing a royal decree.

Under the charter draft's provisional section, the first post-election Senate will be formed by the National Peace-keeping Council (NPKC) which ousted the elected Chatchai government on Feb 23. The Senate will serve four years—even if the House of Representatives is dissolved—after which the NPKC-appoint senators will be replaced by those named by the prime minister.

Armed forces leaders, including Supreme Commander Gen Suchinda Khraprayun, admitted that the latest amendments to the charter draft were made under public pressure, but indicated that the military had retreated to its bottom line.

"Enough is enough," said Air Force Commander in Chief Kaset Rotchananin.

At Thammasat University, an undeclared centre of the democracy movement, politicians, academics and student activists pledged to fight for more, but with varying degrees of toughness.

After a meeting, movement leaders said they could not accept the revised draft because it could still lead to a military-patronized political system.

"We agreed that all groups and political parties campaigning against the draft should seek public opinion on the changes and meet again on Nov 27 to discuss what should be done next," said Chulalongkon University engineering lecturer Kothom Araya, deputy chairman of the so-called Campaign for Popular Demcoracy Committee which coordinated the current pro-democracy activities.

"We consider the powers to select the prime minister and to oust the government the same thing," said New Aspiration Party leader Chawalit Yongchaiyut. "Eliminating either power doesn't mean the constitution is now democratic."

Chawalit dismissed Suchinda's claim that power given the Senate would make the next government more stable.

"This constitution draft enables the NPKC to oust the government any time it wants," the former military chief and Suchinda's predecessor said.

Bangkok Governor and Phalang Tham Party leader Chamlong Simuang said the military would continue to lurk as a major threat to the next government.

The draft gives the military a remote-controlled detonator," Chamlong said. "One push of the button and the government will be gone."

New Aspiration member Chaturon Kotchasi, who is standing trial for allegedly defaming Suchinda, called on the public to express opinions on the revised charter draft.

"Whether the draft is acceptable depends on the public," he said. "But in my opinion, we can't trust dictators for even one second."

Pakit Phatthanakun, a Prachakon Thai Party member, said the pro-democracy movement had achieved some of its goals.

"Though this is not a perfect constitution, it seems acceptable to me," said Pakit, who is also a member of the Interim assembly.

Deputy Democrat leader Banyat Banthatthan said the new draft "is acceptable only in parts". But he added that remaining elements considered to be undemocratic could be amended after the next election.

Despite the military's concessions, a crowd of some 2,000 people made yesterday's gathering at Thammasat the biggest rally since last Tuesday when over 50,000 people demonstrated at nearby Sanam Luang.

"It's like we were robbed by a man who later threw some changes at us and said 'Take that, it's a compromise'," Thammasat economic lecturer Aphisit Wetchachiwa told yesterday's rally.

Fifteen former leaders of the Thammasat student union issued a statement yesterday rejecting the military's concessions and calling on all Thammasat students, teachers and alumni to "support peaceful and legal struggle" for democracy.

The Students Federation of Thailand [SFT] pledged to go on with the daily rallies at Thammasat.

"Students can't accept the draft as long as it allows the NPKC to appoint the Senate and empowers the Senate to oust a popular-elected government," said SFT Secretary-General Parinya Thewanarumitkun.

Students staged a minor anti-military protest at Chiang Mai University yesterday afternoon. Carrying a mock coffin of "Mr NPKC", the demonstrators demanded that the next prime minister be an elected MP and senators perform only one duty of screening legislation.

Wannaphat Thimsungnoen, a protest leader, said Chiang Mai University students would lead major rallies in the northern province early next month before coming to Bangkok to join their city counterparts.

Former prime minister M.R. Khukrit Pramot, asked to comment on the latest changes in the charter draft, said the amendments should be accepted as a compromise.

He said the parties are on a collison course over the draft constitution and should continue as much as possible to be accommodating.

"There should be no resentment among all parties. To compromise and to be tolerant is a Thai way which is good thing," the veteran politican said. "This (conflict) should not lead to confrontation and violence."

Gen Suchinda met Khukrit at the latter's residence on Sunday, a move that signalled yesterday's concessions.

Khukrit had kept a low profile concerning the constitution draft until last week when the democracy movement's confrontation with the military triggered concerns that it could turn violent.

Khukrit's long interview during which he urged conflicting parties to reconcile was broadcast in full by the army-run TV channel 5.

"The Senate's powers to topple the government would help reduce the possibility of a coup in the future. I don't want to see more coups," said Khukrit.

He added: "What the military has given should be accepted. Those who have been demanding for more changes should stop."

Public outcry had prompted Suchinda to declare that he would not accept the premiership after the next election. His move was followed by the droping of a controversial constitutional clause allowing active military officers to assume political posts.

The interim assembly is set to vote in the final reading of the draft on Dec 7. If the draft is rejected, the assembly has to work out a new one on the basis that a general election should be held in April at the latest. If the new draft is turned down again, the assembly will automatically be dissolved to allow the caretaker government and the NPKC to jointly draw up a new constitution from any of Thailand's previous charers.

There are apparent concerns among some in the democracy movement that if the military generals are pushed too hard, what it has gained could slip out of hands and new confrontation could turn violent.

The democratic campaign has so far been peaceful and the military has exercised noticeable restraint. However, the current situation more or less resembles, the one that preceded the uprising in 1973 that toppled the authoritarian Thanom regime. Many demonstrators were killed when security forces opened fire on protesting crowds during the people's revolution.

Anonymous leaflets distributed at Sanam Luang yesterday accused politicians of trying to "use people as a tool" to regain the power they lost in the February coup.

Interior Minister Denies Leadership Aspirations

BK2311014791 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Nov 91 p 3

[Text] Interior Minister Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi said yesterday that he did not aspire to be the next prime minister now that Army Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun and Air Force Chief ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin had declared their intention not to accept the next premiership.

Gen Itsaraphong told reporters that he wanted a new government to be set up quickly so that he could be relieved of his duty as interior minister and could concentrate on his job as army deputy commander-in-chief.

Asked whether he was angry with the burning of his effigy and those of Gen Suchinda and ACM Kaset by protesting students on Thursday, Gen Itsaraphong said the protesters had the right to do so as long as they did not violate the law in any way or infringed on the right of other people.

He said he expects no violence during the 15-day period before the National Legislative Assembly [NLA] is to deliberate the draft Constitution at its third and final reading.

But he declined to make any comment on the controversial draft claiming that he is a member of the Cabinet.

Asked what will happen if the draft charter fails to go through the final reading, Gen Itsaraphong said in that case procedures specified in Articles 12 and 13 of the Interim Constitution would be applied.

Article 12 states that if, in the third reading, there are insufficient votes in favour of the draft Constitution, the NLA could produce a new draft and process it in accordance with the stipulations stated in the charter.

If this makes it impossible to hold a general election within this year, then the deadline for the election must be extended by 120 days after the end of 1991.

Article 13 states that if the second draft Constitution produced under Article 12 is not approved either in the first or third readings according to Article 11, all the NLA members shall have their membership terminated on the day of the rejection of the second draft.

The NPKC [National Peacekeeping Council] and the Cabinet must, in a joint sitting, then reconsider either the draft produced under Article 10 or Article 12. Or they may revise a constitution of the past and complete the revision within 30 days after the rejection, and present it to the King for his Royal signature and promulgation.

A source in the Interior Ministry said yesterday Gen Itsaraphong wanted the election and political party bills to be considered by the Cabinet next Tuesday so that they could be forwarded to Parliament next Friday.

The source said the minister had instructed Mr Anan Anantakun, the permanent secretary, to discuss with the Juridical Council the possibility of bypassing the unnecessary procedures in order that the two bills could be presented to Parliament without delay.

The minister, said the source, had also instructed officials to make the voting in the next general election most convenient for voters and to encourage more voters to go to the polls.

Mr Anan said yesterday the Interior Ministry wanted the election to be held on March 15 "but the final decision will have to depend on the Government."

Minister Cautions Draft Constitution Protestors

BK2211021591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 22 Nov 91 p 3

[Text] Interior Minister Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi said yesterday that people opposed to the draft Constitution could stage public rallies but cautioned them to keep their activities within the limits of law and to refrain from infringing on other people's rights.

Gen Itsaraphong, who is also secretry-general of the National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC], yesterday categorically dismissed speculation that the NPKC might be the mastermind behind the intimidation of certain outspoken academics.

Earlier this week anonymous people made death threats against the families of Prof Raphi Sakrik, an internationally recognised orchid expert and Dr Chai-onan Samutawanit, a member of the Royal Academy.

A dog's head was tossed into the compound of Dr Chai-onan's house and a box containing an alarm clock was thrown onto the lawn of Prof Raphi's residence on Tuesday night.

"I don't want to put the blame on anybody. But I can assure you that these acts were not perpetrated by the administration. The administration intends to maintain peace and order," he told reporters.

"We would not do such a nasty thing, but we are concerned with public safety and maintaining law and order," he said.

In reply to allegations that the incidents were perpetrated by a "third hand," Gen Itsaraphong reiterated that the administration was not involved in any way.

Asked by a reporter if the public suspected involvement by the NPKC, the minister replied: "Why can't they look at the NPKC in a positive manner?"

"Whether protection will be provided depends on the victims themselves. Otherwise we may be accused of putting them under house arrest," he said while adding that an investigation had been launched into the matter.

On the issue concerning the excessive power of senators in the draft Constitution, Gen Itsaraphong declined to comment, claiming that the matter was within the jurisdiction of the legislative branch.

He also refused to comment on whether the draft Constitution was undemocratic or democratic.

The NPKC secretary-general claimed that through his officials he had asked protesting students to stop the hunger strike.

He further said the amendment of the draft Constitution to change the voting age from 18 to 20 would deny about 2.5 million young people of the right to vote in the upcoming election.

Meanwhile, NPKC advisory chairman Bunchana Atthakon said he was pleased that members of the National Legislative Assembly had exercised their free will, instead of following instructions, in voting for the passage of the draft Constitution.

He admitted that the practice of giving instructions to the assemblymen was not new and had been carried on from previous governments.

He defended the transitional provisions in the draft charger which states that the provision would be enforced for a temporary period only.

Army Commander-in-Chief Suchinda Khraprayun refused to comment on the draft Constitution by saying: "No interview, I am bored with it."

NPKC vice chairman ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin said he wanted a democratic system to be enhanced and had no objection if senators are to be elected "at an appropriate time."

"We have to advance step by step, but for the time being (senators) should be appointed," he said.

He denied that the NPKC would be involved in the selection of the senators.

ACM Kaset said since the clause allowing government officials to hold political posts concurrently had been deleted and another about the number of senators had been changed from 360 to 270, he thought that there should be no more discussion about the draft Constitution.

"The case is over," he said.

He defended increasing the power of senators because it was necessary to allow the senators to "check" the performance of the Government.

Party Director Assails Air Commander's Comments

BK2211043591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 22 Nov 91 p A3

[Text] The New Aspiration Party [NAP] director yesterday assailed Air Force Commander in Chief ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin for his alleged derogatory comments aimed at the public when he spoke about Tuesday's pro-democracy demonstration.

Apparently trying to downplay the impact of the demonstration at Sanam Luang which was attended by about 50,000 people, Kaset said on Wednesday that the people may have been paid Bt [baht] 500 each to gather there.

"His comments have cast aspersions on the people's spirit," Phisan Munlasatsathon, the NAP director said. "His words showed that he did not know the real facts. I was there and witnessed the genuine public desire for democracy."

The rally was jointly organized by seven political parties whose members took turns to attack the draft constitution reviewed by an ad hoc assembly committee, which is allegedly a front for the military.

Critics, politicians and student activists alleged that the draft was written to retain the military's dominance over politics.

Phisan said the genuine democratic spirit of the demonstrators was also witnessed by the press which was present at the rally.

The NAP director said the people had the right to demonstrate against what they thought was not good for the country.

"The people came to Sanam Luang because they wanted justice in society," he added.

Phisan, a member of the National Legislature Assembly, was speaking to reporters before attending a meeting of the assembly yesterday sitting to deliberate the draft in its second reading.

Social Action Party Elects New Chief

BK2411042191 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Nov 91 p 3

[Text] The Social Action Party [SAP] yesterday elected a high-ranking army officer as its new secretary-general.

Party spokesman Thana Mettarikanon said Lt-Gen Kasem Kraison of the Army headquarters who is a member of the party had agreed to accept the secretary-general's post succeeding Prayut Siriphanit who resigned on Friday.

He said Lt-Gen Kasem decided to quit military service two years before his retirement to fully engage in politics. The general may contest in Ayutthaya Province, he added.

Lt-Gen Kasem was a classmate of Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Suchinda Khaprayun and the Amnuaisin School. He is said to be close to the army chief.

Gen Suchinda last night attended Lt-Gen Kasem's birthday party at his home. Others seen at the party were SAP leader Montri Pongphanich and Chat Thai Party leader ACM [Air Chief Marshall) Sombun Rahong.

Mr Thana explained that the SAP did not join other parties in protesting the controversial draft constitution because party leader Montri Phongphanit is being investigated for being unusually rich by the Assets Examination Committee.

Meanwhile, it was reported that former Ubon Ratchathani MP Dusit Sophitcha had quit the Solidarity Party to rejoin SAP effective as of November 9.

He told reporters that he decided to leave the Solidarity Party because he felt the party's future looked bleak. Besides, he said, he used to be a member of SAP before.

Start of Thai Airways Flights to Cambodia Halted

BK2211053791 Bangkok THE NATION in English 22 Nov 91 p B1

[Text] Thai Airways International has reportedly been ordered not to inaugurate flights to Cambodia, jeopardizing its chances of grabbing a big slice of the tremendous travel potential offered by peace returning to the country.

Informed government and private sources said the order was made by a powerful figure on the board of THAI, and that now there is doubt the airline will be able to put into effect its plan to schedule flights to the neighbouring country from next April.

Tourism and business travel to Cambodia is expected to boom now that peace has been restored and international peacekeeping forces have been deployed. The private instruction from the board member, therefore, creates huge problems for the airline's management which has foreseen the aviation potential in Cambodia, according to the sources.

THAI executives and government officials were surprised by the order, and reportedly have been given no clear reason for the sacrifice of THAI's and Thailand's interest.

Sources, who described the order as "peculiar", said it will severely hamper the national flag carrier's ability to stake out a position in the medium and long-term in the emerging market of Cambodia. Conversely, it will clear the way for airlines from other countries to better position themselves to tap the business opportunities now being made available.

They said two private Thai airlines, Bangkok Airways Co and SK Air Co which have inaugurated flights to Cambodia, will not be capable of meeting the demand for services when the real influx of international visitors starts, and therefore Bangkok's importance as the gateway to Cambodia will diminish.

The two firms operate only small aircraft and charge steep fares. The actual demand for seats by foreign and Thai passengers is expected to exceed their service capacity.

That means, said the sources, foreign travellers to Cambodia will opt for other airlines originating services outside of Thailand. THAI and Thailand will lose a golden opportunity to stake a claim as the major hub for the route.

Most likely Singapore could emerge as the most convenient axis for international visitors if the island state secures air service rights to serve Phnom Penh and other Cambodian cities like Siem Riep. That would result in international traffic bypassing Bangkok which is geographically closer to Cambodia.

Bangkok Airways, which currently operates 14 flights a week to Phnom Penh from Bangkok, and SK Air, which has three weekly flights, will not be able to compete with the services offered by the mega- carriers like Singapore Airlines. THAI on the other hand, is in a position to carve out a sizeable share of the market due to its extensive international network. But, said the sources, that chance has been blocked by the instruction from the unnamed board member.

For example, the airline could offer competitive packages to travellers from Europe or Japan, with flights from Bangkok to Phnom Penh, at competitive prices. Although Bangkok Airways has gradually reduced its Bangkok-Phnom Penh fare from US$500 a trip to US$400, the charge is regarded as still too high as the national flag carriers will be able to offer much cheaper tickets.

At present, Bangkok Airways uses Dash-8 aircraft capable of carrying about 50 people, on the route.

Cabinet Approves Appointment of New Envoys

BK2011133891 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 19 Nov 91

[From the report on 19 November Cabinet meeting]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The Cabinet today approved appointments of government officials as proposed by the Foreign Ministry as follows:

1. Thatsani Bunnak, consul general to New York, becomes ambassador to Budapest.

2. Maitri Chunladun, deputy director general of the Economic Department, becomes ambassador to Kuwait.

3. Ronnarong Nopphakhun, deputy director general of the ASEAN Affairs Department, becomes ambassador to Kathmandu, Nepal. [passage omitted]

Vietnam

French Foreign Minister Dumas Continues Visit

Received by Do Muoi

BK2511153591 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] On the afternoon of 25 November 1991, Comrade Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee, received His Excellency Roland Dumas, minister of state for foreign affairs of the Republic of France, now on an official friendship visit to our country.

The comrade general secretary welcomed the official visit to Vietnam by Foreign Minister Dumas and the French delegation. He expressed the hope that the visit would contribute to consolidating and strengthening the multifaceted relations between the two countries. The comrade general secretary reasserted Vietnam's determination to persist in the renovation line both politically and economically. He also stressed that for the renovation undertaking to succeed, Vietnam must learn from other countries' experiences and must also chart its own development path suitable with the objective law of evolution and the concrete conditions in the country.

The comrade general secretary highly valued France's contributions to the settlement of the Cambodian issue and expressed the hope that France would continue its efforts to help build Cambodia into a peaceful, independent, and neutral country.

The comrade general secretary stressed that Vietnam highly appreciates Frnace's role and position in the cause of building Southeast Asia into a region of peace, stability, and cooperation. He thanked the French Government and people for having helped with Vietnam's national construction and expressed the hope that the Vietnamese-French relations would continue to be consolidated and developed to meet the two peoples' aspirations and interests and to contribute to the cause of peace and friendship among the world nations.

Foreign Minister Roland Dumas highly valued Vietnam's achievements in the renovation and asserted the French Government's consistent policy of strengthening the friendly and cooperative ties with Vietnam in many areas. His Excellency Roland Dumas informed everyone of the initiatives that the French side may take in the days to come in order to strengthen the relations between Vietnam and the European Community. He also asserted France's desire to continue to help Vietnam settle its obligations to the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

On this occasion, Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi asked His Excellency Foreign Minister Dumas to convey his invitation to President Francois Mitterand to pay an official visit to Vietnam. His Excellency Foreign Minister Dumas promised to promptly extend the invitation to the French president.

Also attending the reception on the Vietnamese side were Comrade Nguyen Manh Cam, minister of foreign affairs; Comrade Nguyen Dy Nien, deputy minister of foreign affairs; and Comrade Trinh Ngoc Thai, deputy chief of the party Central Committee External Relations Department.

On the French side were Ambassador Claude Blanchemaison and a number of official members of the French delegation.

The reception took place in an atmosphere of friendship, cordiality, straightforwardness, and mutual understanding.

Praises Ties at News Conference

BK2611112891 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Vietnam highly values the visit of French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas to Vietnam, considering it a new [words indistinct] in the development of the relations between the two countries. This was stated by Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam at a press conference in Hanoi on Monday. The minister further said: After the official friendship visit to Vietnam by the French foreign minister in February this year, the relations between the two countries have developed finely. The visit this time by the French foreign minister takes place at a time when there are great changes in the region. It not only facilitates the development of existing relations but also marks a milestone in Franco-Vietnam relations as well as those between France and the three Indochinese countries. The visit will contribute to strengthening peace and development in the region.

Speaking at the press conference, Mr. Roland Dumas said that his visit to the Indochina countries takes place in a favorable context. Vietnam is the second leg of his Indochinese tour. During his one-day in Hanoi, he met with and had talks with the leaders of Vietnam. He reaffirmed France's determination to continue assisting, supporting, and reserving a [words indistinct] position for Vietnam in the international arena.

On French assistance to Vietnam, Mr. Roland Dumas said the French Government will provide Vietnam with 42 million Francs, a 25-percent increase as compared with last year on agriculture, scientific, and technical fields. Vietnam is the first recipient country of such assistance. On economy, France will invest in oil and gas, pharmaceutical products, and hotels. Investment capital will increase to 95 million francs in the 1991 fiscal year—45 million francs more than 1990.

Minister Roland Dumas also made known that France is finalizing an agreement on private investment in Vietnam in scientific and technical fields. France will strive to help Vietnam create careers in international banks. France will assist Vietnam in organizing a conference of French-speaking countries in 1995.

Winds Up Visit, Departs

BK2611115391 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] At the invitation of the SRV Government, His Excellency Roland Dumas, minister of state for foreign affairs of the Republic of France, paid an official friendship visit to Vietnam from 25-26 November 1991.

He was accompanied by many high-ranking officials of the presidential office, the Foreign Ministry, and other ministries concerned, representatives of various corporations, and a large number of French news reporters.

During its stay in Vietnam the French delegation was received and had cordial talks with Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, and Vo Van Kiet, chairman of the Council of Ministers.

The delegation also had talks with a Vietnamese delegation led by Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam. Both sides exchanged views on measures aimed at strengthening the cooperation between the two countries as well as on international and regional matters of mutual concern. The talks took place in an atmosphere of cordiality, friendship, and mutual understanding.

On behalf of the Republic of France, His Excellency Roland Dumas officially announced nonrefundable aid of 95 million francs reserved for Vietnam for the 1991 fiscal year.

Minister Roland Dumas and Minister Nguyen Manh Cam attended an inaugural ceremony for the French Cultural Center in Hanoi and witnessed a ceremony held to sign an agreement on cooperation between Vietnam's Post and Telecommunications General Corporation and France's (ALCATEJIN) corporation.

The two ministers also held a joint news conference at the government guest house.

Mr. Dau Ngoc Xuan, head of the State Commission for Cooperation and Investment, held a meeting with the French businessmen and a number of French news reporters who accompanied Minister Dumas.

The delegation left Hanoi on the morning of 26 November, finally winding up its official friendship visit to Vietnam.

Nguyen Huu Tho at Vietnamese Congress in Paris

BK2211102591 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] On 16-17 November the sixth congress of the Vietnamese Association in France was held at the Conference Hall of the French Workers Union in Paris with the participation of 250 delegates from all branches of the association in France. Ambassador Pham Binh and some Vietnamese cadres working in France attended the congress.

Nguyen Huu Tho, president of the Vietnam Fatherland Front, spoke at the congress. Nguyen Huu Tho is in Paris to attend the Francophone summit meeting that will be held there next week.

After the opening speech by Mr. Huynh Trung Dong, president of the Vietnamese Association, Mr. Lam Ba Chau, vice president of the association, read a report on the association's work in the last term and its program in the next term.

The congress passed some documents regarding the personnel organization and work of the association. The congress resolution acknowledges and supports the determination of the people in Vietnam for their renovation in all fields of the economy, politics, and society, which was clearly shown by the resolutions of the seventh national party congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

The working program of the association reflects the determination of the overseas Vietnamese to unite for the benefit of the Vietnamese community and homeland. It also has plans to preserve and develop the Vietnamese national cultural characteristics and contribute to SRV-France cooperation and to the building of the Vietnamese fatherland.

French Firm Contracted for Infrastructure Upgrade

BK2511124691 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Text] Vietnam has signed with a French company a contract worth one billion dollars [currency not further specified] to upgrade the infrastructure in Ho Chi Minh City.

Under the contract, the French company will complete the water supply and drainage system of Ho Chi Minh City and build a number of hotels for the city.

Talks With USSR on Social Science Cooperation

BK2411140791 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] The SRV-USSR Council for Social Science Cooperation of the Vietnam Social Science Institute and the USSR Science Institute held its fourth meeting in Hanoi on 20 November.

The meeting reviewed the implementation of the council's 1986- 1990 cooperation and discussed measures for the new stage.

Generally, the results of the cooperation between the Vietnamese and the USSR science institutes have been good. The USSR institute has contributed greatly to enhancing the Vietnam Social Science Institute in personnel training, providing information on social science, and broadening basic science among Vietnamese cadres in many fields.

For the future, the two sides affirmed on the maintenance and broadening of cooperation in science, history, economy, law, languages, culture, and anthropology. They also agreed to continue training cadres at the doctorate level and the exchange information and news and magazines. The meeting was held in an atmosphere of friendship, tradition, and mutual understanding.

On the same day at the Government Guest House, Professor Pham Xuan Lang and Doctor (Sinkov) signed the report on the fourth meeting of the SRV-USSR Council for Social Science Cooperation.

More Foreign Investment Project Licenses Issued

BK2511134991 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] In early November 1991, the State Commission for Cooperation and Investment issued licenses to five foreign investment projects involving a total investment capital of 4.3 million U.S. dollars of which foreign countries contributed 2 million.

The first project involves a joint hotel business venture with Australia, the second is a joint venture in fisheries with Thailand, and the remaining three have the participation of the Soviet Union, the Philippines, and Hong Kong.

To date, in the entire country, licenses have been issued to 330 foreign investment projects involving a total investment capital of approximately 2.5 billion U.S. dollars.

As for Ho Chi Minh City alone, there are nine infrastructure building projects, including the construction of a port and telecommunications facility requiring a total investment capital of 127 million U.S. dollars.

German Government Promises Resumption of Aid

BK2311110691 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Text] The Bonn Government on Thursday said that it had renewed its cooperation with Vietnam and it would follow through with projects signed by Vietnam and former East Germany.

In all, it promised total aid of 29 million marks for 1991. The German Cooperation Ministry said the resumption of aid will aim at encouraging economic reform underway in Vietnam.

Indonesian Bank Opens Joint-Branch in Hanoi

BK2211154991 Hanoi VNA in English 1418 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA November 22—The Indovina Bank, the first banking joint venture between the Vietnam Industry and Trade Bank and the Sumatra Bank of Indonesia, opened its branch office in Hanoi yesterday.

Earlier, on January 21, 1991, Indovina Bank opened a branch office in Ho Chi Minh City to raise capital and provide loans in Vietnamese and foreign currencies, other banking services and economic information.

Over the past nine months Indovina Bank has raised a total capital of more than USD 40 million, and loaned nearly US dollars 3 million. Transactions between the Vietnamese economic organizations and foreign partners through Indovina have totalled more than US dollars 130 million.

Indonesian Company Signs Goods Exchange Contract

BK2311085791 Hanoi VNA in English 0623 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 23—The Tan Binh Import-Export Company of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, and the Prima Comexindo Company of Indonesia have signed in Jakarta US dollars 20 million contract on good exchanges. Under the contract, the Indonesia side will deliver to Tan Binh Company 50,000 tons of ureal fertilizer and receive in return farm products such as rice, groundnut, soyabean coffee, cabbage. The Prima Comexindo president and director also sent as present to people in flood-stricken areas of the Mekong River Delta US dollars 50,000 in contraceptives for the family planning programme and US dollars 10,000 in cash.

ROK Firm Signs Joint Wood Processing Venture

BK2211062891 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] To implement cooperative programs with foreign countries for more capital in production, the Ministry of Forestry's Agricultural, Forestry, and Industrial Production Corporation signed an agreement with (Korendo) Company of the ROK to build a wood processing plant at Buon Ho of Dac Lac Province.

The joint venture, called Koravina in short, will have a production capacity of 50,000 cubic meters of timber a year and a total capital investment of $3.5 million.

At present, the joint venture is urgently building a wood cutting plant to be put into operation by the end of this year. The wood processing plant will be completed sometime in the first half of 1992.

In order to guarantee raw materials for the plant, the corporation is quickly rearranging state-run afforestation sites to further improve efficiency and to protect against deforestation.

Women's Union Delegation Visits PRC 12 Nov

BK2111124391 Hanoi VNA in English 0637 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 21—A delegation of the Vietnam Women's Union, led by its Vice-President Ms. Truong My Hoa, visited China from Nov. 12 as guest of the National Women's Federation of China.

Ms. Huang Qizao, vice-president and general secretary of the host organization, received and had working session with the Vietnamese women delegation on Nov. 16. The two sides [word indistinct] and expressed their confidence that the Vietnamese women delegation's visit would contribute to promoting the friendly relations and cooperation between the two women's union delegations. Ms Truong My Hoa invited a Chinese women's delegation to visit Vietnam. While there, the Vietnamese delegation also visited Guangzhou and Hangzhou cities.

Meeting Marks Vietnamese Red Cross Anniversary

BK2211070891 Hanoi VNA in English 0613 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov.22—A grand meeting was held here yesterday jointly by the Red Cross of Vietnam (RCV) and its Hanoi chapter to mark the RCV's 45th founding anniversary.

Present at the meeting were Vu Oanh, Politburo member of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) Central Committee; Nguyen Trong Nhan, member of the CPV Central Committee and president of the Red Cross of Vietnam Representatives of Concerned Offices of Foreign Embassies, as well as international organizations in Hanoi, the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) and the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies.

Addressing the meeting, Prof. Nguyen Trong Nhan brought out the society's great achievements over the past 45 years. He said :

"Red Cross members have actively participated in the primary healthcare movement. In 1990, Red Cross members spent millions of labour days on environment protection, provided first-aid to nearly 43,000 accident victims, supplied first-aid kits to 25 percent of the primary schools, opened many free consulting rooms and nearly 5,000 traditional medicine centres, supplied mosquito nets to 22 malaria-prone districts, vaccinated tens of thousands of children against the six major diseases and stepped up the blood-donation campaign.

In furtherance of the country's social policy, diversified and practical activities have been carried out by the RCV, such as repairing and building roads, bridges and houses in rural areas for the poor, disabled and lonely people. It has also delivered in time, emergence relief to victims of floods, typhoons, drought, whirlwind, fire and other disastess'.

On the external relations, he said that the RCV has won sympathy, support and assistance from International Red Cross organizations and its counterparts in the Soviet Union, Switzerland, Sweden, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, France, the Netherlands, Japan, and the United States.

An agreement on cooperation for the period 1991-94, he added, was signed between the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies and the Red Cross of Vietnam.

Vu Oanh Addresses Meeting

BK2511062991 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Report on Hanoi 21 November meeting to mark 45th founding anniversary of the Vietnam Red Cross Association]

[Summary] "The Vietnam Red Cross Association [VRC] on 21 November held a solemn meeting at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi to mark its 45th founding anniversary.

"Attending the meeting were comrade Vu Oanh, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee Political Bureau; representatives from the Council of State, Council of Ministers, and sectors and branches at the central level and in Hanoi; and representatives of Red Cross Societies from Hanoi, Ha Bac, Ha Tay, Ha Nam Ninh, Hai Hung, and Thai Binh Provinces as well as many numbers who have made great contributions to the association."

Also attending the function were representatives of the diplomatic corps, international organizations, the International Red Cross Organization, and a large group of newsmen from home and abroad.

Professor Nguyen Trong Nhan, chairman of the VRC, delivered an opening speech stressing the history, activities, development, and achievements scored by the VRC during the past 45 years.

"Addressing the meeting, Comrade Vu Oanh welcomed contributions made by the VRC to humanitarian activities and public health service during the past 45 years. Particulary, during the past several years, the association has provided tens of billions of dong to the poor people. The VRC has also coordinated with the war invalids and social welfare sector to help victims of natural calamity in localities to overcome difficulties.

"To help the association carry out its tasks more satisfactorily and to maintain its role as an effective humanitarian organization of Vietnam, Comrade Vu Oanh suggested a number of tasks to be fulfilled and developed by the association in the days ahead. He said:

"[Begin Nguyen Trong Nhan recording] The VRC, with its functions and capability—especially its voluntary and humanitarian characteristics—has manifested its significant role of a big mass organization integrating a large number of all people's strata. Its humanitarian activities are aimed at helping natural calamity victims and relieving their suffering. Thanks to its positive efforts, the association has integrated a large number of masses, especially ethnic minorities and religious groups. The association serves as a bridge linking unity and promote affection among religious groups and ethnic minorities. Its activities also support tasks of other sectors, the administration, and other mass societies. As a result, to achieve ever greater results, the association should seek more support and assistance from related agencies such as the public health and education sectors and so forth. The association should also strengthen its cooperation with other mass organizations such as the youth and women's unions to fulfill the general program of action aimed at strengthening charitable and humanitarian activities in which the VRC plays the main role.

"The association should also strengthen its relations and cooperation with other mass societies to gain more support and cooperation from them so as to fulfill all tasks. The association should consolidate its guidance and satisfactorily carry out social welfare and public health services. It should strive to fulfill tasks stipulated in its regulations, especially social activities that support the development of the national economy as we are now shifting to the new economic management system. With this new mechanism, many agencies have belittled the social welfare activities, thus hurting the people's feeling and sentiment. As a result, the VRC should continue to satisfactorily carry out social welfare and humanitarian activities to help strengthen the people's confidence, thereby contributing to developing the national economy and stabilizing social welfare situation. The VRC should also expand its foreign affairs activities to gain more experiences and to seek more assistance from international organizations for charitable and humanitarian purposes.

"Commemorating the 45th anniversary of the VRC against the background of complexities at home and abroad, the VRC should strive to expand its activities, strength unity with the people, relieve the people's suffering, and take good care of their health. These are the extremely lofty humanitarian tasks that should be highly commended. [applause] [end recording]"

Vo Chi Cong Sends Letter

BK2311133391 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] On the 45th founding anniversary of the Red Cross of Vietnam [RCV], on behalf of the party and state, Vo Chi Cong, chairman of the Council of State, sent a letter to give his regards and commendations to all RCV cadres and members, families of members who heroically sacrificed in the line of their humanitarian duty, and to all generations of cadres since the establishment of the RCV. The letter reads:

In nearly half of the last century, the RCV, which was formed by our beloved President Ho Chi Minh who was also its honorary president, has scored excellent achievements in its social humanitarian activities. The RCV is a good combination of the noble humanitarian ideology of Henry Dunant with the profound benevolent tradition of our people.

The comprehensive renovation and the national construction and protection carried in our country have set forth many social and humanitarian issues which need to be solved. The RCV needs to further develop the precious humanitarian tradition of our people and encourage the existing generosity of the public to accelerate all of its activities to, together with the entire people, make our social life healthier.

The RCV needs to renovate its activities, strengthen its structure, and improve its management and personnel work to attract more people joining the society and replying to its humanitarian appeal. And I hope that the party and state at all levels will create favorable conditions for RCV activities.

On this occasion, on behalf of the Vietnamese state and people, Chairman Vo Chi Cong also sent his warmest welcome to the Eighth International Conference of the Red Cross Society which will be held in Budapest, Hungary in November. He also expressed his sincere appreciation for the impartial and precious assistance of the International Red Cross Society to the Vietnamese people.

Defense Ministry Awards Titles To Scientists

BK2311093591 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2330 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Station Correspondent Nguyen Duc Son's Report on a ceremony held by the Defense Ministry on 15 November in Hanoi to award titles to Army scientists]

[Summary] On 15 November 1991, the Defense Ministry held a ceremony in its great conference hall to award scientific titles to military recipients. The participants in the ceremony elatedly welcomed "General Doan Khue, party Central Committee Political Bureau Member and defense minister. Also attending the ceremony were professor Pham Ngoc Dang, general secretary of the Academic Degree and State Scientist Title Review Board; Senior Lieutenant General Tran Van Quang, deputy defense minister and chairman of the Scientist Title Board of the Defense Ministry; Lieutenant General Le Kha Phieu, party Central Committee member and chief of the General Political Department; Lieutenant General Nguyen Trong Xuyen, party Central Committee member and deputy defense minister;" representatives of various central level party organs and government ministries and agencies, and delegates from various armed branches and services. According to the decision, 95 persons were awarded the title in this first phase of 1991, to include 20 professors and 75 assistant professors.

Rejoicing at the scientific achievements of army cadres over the past few decades, Gen. Doan Khue said:

"[Begin Doan Khue recording] We are very happy that so far our army has formed a high standard contingent of scientific cadres, including more than 700 doctorate and master of science holders, and over 200 professors and assistant professors. These cadres are the core force and pioneers in scientific research and teaching in the army schools. However, in the domain of military art and science, the number of cadres holding academic degrees is still small: Only 30 or more hold Master of Science degrees, and only 20 of these are professors and assistants. In the domains of military, social and educational sciences, many comrades have received basic training and gained many experiences during the national defense war. They have made valuable contributions to building the country and the army. They deserve being awarded the titles of professors and assistants and should be given a chance to defend their doctorate and masters theses.

"In the new situation, although there are basically favorable conditions, new difficulties have also emerged, requiring army scientists to devote all their effort to the tasks of creating scientific innovations and studying satisfactory ways to maintain well the pieces of technical and modern equipment on hand and invent new equipment items and weapons depending on the capability of national defense economy. They must also study modern technical equipment and weapons in order to use them effectively, and must step by step apply modern technological progress to the military tasks, namely electronics, information science, biological indsutry, new materials and so forth.

"They must study and renovate political education, social science teaching and military arts in the new situation and tasks; and integrate the system of army schools into the network of national education, thus creating social positions for army officers.

"Dear comrades: At present the paramount tasks of all our party members and people are to continue to renovate comprehensively our country along the socialist path, to build a strong and firm national defense and security, to make the people rich, the country strong, and to give a life of plenty and happiness to all people. I am convinced that army scientists will devote their wisdom and talents to making worthy contributions to this common cause. Once again, on behalf of the party Central Committee's Military Commission and the National Defense Ministry, I thank you, delegates of all party and state agencies for attending this ceremony. I wish all of you—delegates, professors and assistants, the people's outstanding and emeritus teachers, instructors, scientists, and all comrades present here today—good health and happiness.

"Thank you, comrades. [applause] [end recording]"

Following the defense minister's address, professor Pham Ngoc Dang said:

"[Begin Pham Ngoc Dang recording] First of all, allow me to represent the review board to congratulate 95 awardees. This time, our defense ministry has the most awardees. This testifies to the scientific potential of our ministry and to the leaders's concern for scientists and to the people's confidence in our scientists. [end recording]"

Concluding the ceremony, the defense minister elatedly offered bouquets of flowers to the awardees and conversed with the army scientists.

Dao Duy Tung Attends Vinh Phu Party Congress

BK2211090591 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] The seventh second-round congress of the Vinh Phu provincial party organization was recently held to assess the implementation of socioeconomic tasks over the past five years and to discuss the guidelines, objectives, and steps to be taken for carrying out socioeconomic development in the next five years.

Comrades Dao Duy Tung, party Central Committee Political Bureau member and secretary, and Le Huy Ngo, member of the party Central Committee and deputy head of the Central Committee Organization Department, attended the congress.

In the past five years Vinh Phu Province has achieved an average grain production increase of 11 percent compared to the average of the preceding five-year period, with a production volume of nearly 400,000 tonnes of grain in rice equivalent, initially linking agricultural production to the market.

In industry, although development rates have slowed down somewhat in the past few years, the production volume of high quality commodities—namely cinnamon, phosphorous fertilizer, fabrics, cement, and alum—has increased.

Local industries have turned out several new goods such as fire- and-acid proof bricks and toilet paper. Exports have doubled in the last five years. Some progress has been achieved in the readjustment of investment structures and in reorganization of the economic network, and some initial results have been obtained in renovating the economic mechanism. Yet, the province's economic development rate is still slow, whereas the cultural and social domains are still rife with many difficulties.

In the next five years Vinh Phu Province will strive to reach an average increase in social production volume of from five to six percent. The volume of grain in rice equivalent will increase from 540,000 to 550,000 tonnes, and exports will be worth US$25 million, whereas the population growth rate will be reduced to 1.9 percent.

Speaking at the congress, Comrade Dao Duy Tung stressed that while Vinh Phu Province still has much potential, its economic development is not commensurate with its potential. Provincial authorities and sectors should continue to seek the causes thereof and overcome them, combine the central and local economies in the province to turn out new products of quality, and, at the same time, resolve unemployment, paying particular attention to the development of economic components of all sectors.

In order to make the seventh party congress resolution go down in practical life, each party base s hould continue to renovate itself to become a true leading nucleus of the masses.

Vu Oanh Directs Mass Mobilization Work Seminar

BK2411130591 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] From 18-20 November in Hanoi, the party Central Committee Mass Mobilization Department organized a three-day seminar on renovating the organization and activities of the front and mass societies.

Attending the seminar were representatives of leading officials in charge of mass mobilization work in the various northern provinces and cities as well as many comrade ministers, deputy ministers, specialists, and research cadres belonging to the various party central committee departments and sectors.

Comrade Vu Oanh, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau in charge of mass mobilization work, and Comrade Phan Minh Tanh, member of the party Central Committee and head of the party Central Committee Mass Mobilization Department, presided over the seminar.

Prompted by a high sense of responsibility and acting in line with the principles of democracy, open-mindedness, and straightforwardness, the delegates firmly grasped the topics of discussion and reached unanimous agreement on a number of important issues raised. They devoted special efforts to assessing the implementation of mass mobilization work at present and to reviewing the structures and organizational systems of the front and mass societies.

The front and mass organizations have made much efforts to improve the quality and efficiency of their activities and have greatly contributed to restoring the people's belief in the fatherland's future and the party's leadership step by step, thus creating a decisive factor for ensuring political stability.

However, generally speaking, both the front and mass societies do not operate efficiently enough to meet the requirement of the situation. Worse still, they even cannot play an active role in initiating a strong mass movement or to check the deterioration of grass-roots organizations.

Party Subnationalities Department Established

BK2211034691 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] In compliance with the spirit of the seventh party congress resolution and Directive 68-CTTU of the party Central Committee Secretariat on the people's motivation task, the party Central Committee Department of Nationalities has decided to establish a subnationalities department for Nam Bo Provinces.

The duty of this subdepartment is to control and guide the people's motivation tasks of the former Nam Bo Provinces. Its headquarters is located in Can Tho City of Hau Giang Province and headed by Comrade Huynh Cuong.

National Labor Redistribution Efforts Detailed

BK2611033991 Hanoi VNA in English 1724 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] [Words indistinct] 23,640 families including 109,700 people had left for new settlements in sparsely-populated areas.

Leading the national settlement this year are Hau Giang, Tien Giang and Kien Giang Provinces, all in southern Vietnam.

With the state financial support of nearly 18 billion dong, the new settlers reclaimed more than 23,300 hectares of virgin land for food crop cultivation, providing regular work for 69,000 work hands. In addition, they built more than 80 kilometres of rural roads, 23 bridges, 43 irrigation sluices and eight small-sized reservoirs.

National labour re-distribution projects have been elaborated for 1992 with an estimated expenditure of nearly 62 Vietnamese billion dong on infrastructure building and 30 billion dong on movement services.

Directive Issued on Increasing Cotton Production

BK2211151191 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] The Council of Ministers recently issued a directive to a number of sectors concerned and the chairmen of the people's committees of cotton-planting provinces, asking them to ensure that the harvesting of the 1991 cotton crop is carried out satisfactorily in order to make this crop—the first under a new state policy—a success. The directive says:

Implenting the state's policy on accelerating the development of cotton nationwide, with the aim of satisfying the need for raw materials for the textile industry, in 1991 the provinces planted as many as 12,000 hectares of cotton each. This figure, which shows a six-fold increase over 1990, could result in 3,000 metric tons of raw cotton being produced, thus creating the possibility of solving the problem of raw cotton for the textile industry in the days ahead.

To ensure that this year's cotton crop is a success and that peasants are comfortable about expanding the area of cotton in 1992, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry and the people's committees of all provinces must closely observe the development of cotton, provide guidance for peasants to continue caring for and protecting cotton, and organize a network for the direct purchase of cotton seeds from peasants at reasonable prices.

Explanations should be made to make peasants understand the need to sell cotton seeds to various cotton corporations. This is aimed at ensuring sufficient seeds for resale to the people, thus creating favorable conditions for expansion of the cotton crop in the ensuing years. Vigorous management should also be enacted to prevent traders from competing with state-run units in buying cotton, thus causing market and price fluctuations.

The Ministry of Light Industry must direct the Federation of Textile Enterprises to promptly purchase all the quantities of cotton from various cotton corporations. Meanwhile, the Vietnam Bank for Agricultural Development must ensure that loans are extended in full and in time to both the central and provincial cotton corporations so that those corporations can purchase all the cotton seeds from peasants.

Radio Reports Nationwide Agricultural Production

BK2411053091 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Summary] "To date, northern provinces have planted more than 348,000 hectares of the winter crops, almost 100,000 hectares over that of the corresponding period last year. These include 83,000 hectares of corn, almost 173,000 hectares of sweet potatoes, more than 22,000 hectares of potatoes, and 60,000 hectares of vegetables."

Due to less rainfall during the past weeks, many provinces in the north have experienced a drought. The water conservancy sector, cooperatives, and peasants are striving to improve the irrigation network to provide sufficient water for the winter corps, especially for corn and potato plantations.

"Meanwhile, southern provinces have harvested almost 300,000 hectares of 10th-month rice or 22 percent of their cultivated area. They have also planted 170,000 hectares of winter-spring rice. Provinces in the Mekong River Delta have planted more than 128,000 hectares.

"Provinces in the Central Highlands are urgently harvesting their 10th-month rice while preparing land for the winter-spring crop."

In the Mekong River Delta area, peasants are striving to drain excess water from various ricefields caused by the recent flash floods, while preparing seeds and materials to quickly plant the winter-spring rice crop.

Southern Provinces Import More Farm Machinery

BK2511071991 Hanoi VNA in English 0615 GMT 25 Nov 91

Hanoi VNA Nov 25—Over the past few years, more than 20,000 farm machines manufactured in Japan and other countries have been sold to farmers in southern Vietnam, announced the Electrical Engineering Company No. 3.

With 11 retailing shops in various southern cities and provinces, the company has retailed various machines for soil preparation and farm produce processing. The biggest sales have been made in the Mekong River Delta, Vietnam's largest rice growing area. These sales account for 80 percent of total turnover. To improve its share of the import market, the company has been cooperating with foreign partners to assemble foreign-made farm machines on a semiknocked down (SKD) basis. This has reduced the price from 15-20 percent as compared with machines imported complete.

Although such imported machines sell well, domestic users still worry about the shortage of compatible spare parts. Of the more than 40 kinds of foreign-made machines available in Vietnam, several kinds of machines have already been left unused because farmers cannot purchase spare parts.

Australia

East Timor Killings Prompt 'Shift' in Policy

BK2611071091 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Australia's foreign affairs minister, Gareth Evans, is to go to Indonesia to make a strong protest by Australia over the recent massacre of civilians in East Timor by Indonesian troops. Senator Evans confirmed in Canberra that he would make the trip next month. He also disputed Indonesia's claim that only 19 people were killed in the massacre in Dili on 13 November and said Australia's estimate was that 75 people died.

Senator Evans was speaking to reporters after a meeting of parliamentary members of the ruling Labor Party caucus unanimously adopted a resolution calling on Indonesia to meet the long-term needs and aspirations of the people of East Timor.

The movers of the motion claim it was a clear call for an active self-determination in East Timor, a former Portuguese colony annexed by Indonesia in 1976. One of the motion sponsors, a backbench member of Parliament, (Gary Gibson), said the resolution was a fundamental shift in the Australian Government's policy decision on East Timor and Indonesia.

It called on Senator Evans to make an early visit to Indonesia to discuss all aspects of the East Timor question and the massacre. It also said approval should be sought for the establishment of a resident Australian Consul in Dili.

The resolution said the Labor Party condemned in the strongest term the resort to force by the Indonesian military and described the Army's action as wholly excessive. It also expressed repugnance at reported comments by the Indonesian Armed Forces chief, General Try Sutrisno, on the massacre.

Defense Science Minister Defends Arms Exports

BK2511115991 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0803 GMT 25 Nov 91

[From the "International Report" program]

[Text] Australia's defense science minister, Gordon Bilney, had given what he describes as a moral justification for overseas sales of Australian defense equipment. Mr. Bilney's argument for arms exports was directed at peace protesters trying to blockade a Canberra Defense Exhibition, ADEX '91, due to open tomorrow. From Canberra, Graeme Dobell reports:

[Begin recording] [Dobell] Mr. Bilney said there had been a sea change in Australia's own defense spending, with much more capital equipment now being produced in Australia. This major shift in policy on defense purchases meant that over the last decade instead of spending only 25 percent of the equipment budget in Australia, the figure now was more than 60 percent. In line with this, and the commitment to make Australian industry internationally focused, the defense science minister said the government would maintain its policy of encouraging defense exports.

[Bilney] I mean, it would just seem to me that these people do miss the point, rather. I think the problem concerns a clear moral obligation to provide defense to their populations. If you accept that, then it is morally acceptable to acquire the wherewithal, the means to provide that defense. If you.... [Bilney changes thought] Therefore it is morally acceptable to buy that equipment, and if it is morally acceptable to buy, I do not see that the seller is in a morally different position. So, if that sounds like a moral justification for trade in defense equipment, then I believe that it is, and I think it is time that those who take a morally one-sided position or really would not know what the words meant, of course, ought to think of that.

[Dobell] Mr. Bilney said that he made the government tighten the conditions for defense exports, and Australia had stringent safeguards in place. All applications for defense sales are considered by an Inter-Departmental Committee [IDC] drawing on defense, the Prime Minister's Department, and foreign affairs.

[Bilney] And that IDC has just been charged—exclusively charged—with taking into account the military and human rights situations in the country to which it is intended to export, as well as the general region for which the exports are destined. And those guidelines, I believe, are satisfactory and stringent, and they provide a guarantee that the conflict spots in which we will (?launch) exports and which we'll participate in in the future will be justifiable and reasonable, and of course, they are only part of the initiatives which this government has taken in that regard. In the international sphere we have been a supporter of the moves in the United Nations to get greater transparency into the arms trade, particularly to bringing it under the control of governments.

[Dobell] Mr. Bilney's comments to a defense engineering conference were picked up by a former deputy secretary of the Defense Department in charge of procurement, Mr. Fred Bennett, who said there were contradictions in Australia's national attitude to defense exports. Mr. Bennett said the government encouraged an open economy and the imperative to export, but then restricted its defense industry so exports were laughingly small.

[Bennett] We are still.... [Bennett changes thought] As a nation we are not united in wanting to succeed. Despite partial liberalization of controls on defense exports, they remain an obstacle to succeed. The defense industry manager who might be weighing out the risks and costs of an export drive will not be encouraged by a recent report that after a six-month delay the minister for defense rejected a $450 million export application. Contrast that with the enthusiasm with which diplomats and officials of other countries promote the export of military equipment to Australia. I admire the minister's analysis of morality, but I heard the dread word, Inter-Departmental Committee, and I shudder. [laughter].

[Dobell] Mr. Bilney said Australian defense exports were mainly in the communications area, not boats and tanks, and more than half the sales went to New Zealand, Britain, and the United States. The defense science minister also hit out at the argument that Australia should bar all sales to Third World countries.

[Bilney] And those who argue withmy belief that we should not sell to developing countries are being paternalistic and imperialistic. They take the view.... [changes thought] It seems to me they put themselves in taking a position of taking decisions for those countries, which those countries are better placed to make for themselves, subject, of course, to the significant constraints that we impose to maintain stability and protect human rights. [end recording]